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CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE



**THE
FLAPPING
HEAD**

**CLAWS OF THE
HUNGRY DEMON**

**THE TIME
DESTROYER**

**FIEND OF
MIDNIGHT**

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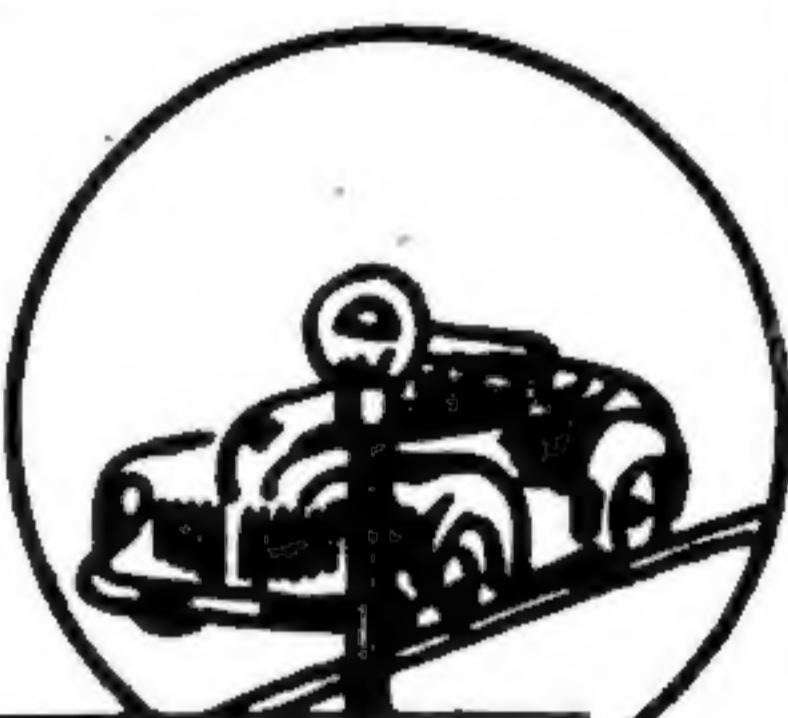
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SHOCK

CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE

NOVEMBER 1969

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DEATH of a DOLL!



"HAROLD WAS A MISTAKE, ALL RIGHT -- BUT THERE WASN'T ANYTHING THEY COULD DO ABOUT IT! LEARNED SPECIALISTS EVERYWHERE GAVE THEM THE SAME ANSWER --"

I'M SORRY! OUTSIDE OF THE --ER-- OBVIOUS IMPAIRMENTS, IT -- THE CHILD, THAT IS -- SEEMS HEALTHY ENOUGH! THERE'S NO REASON TO THINK IT WON'T LIVE!

THAT'S -- WHAT WE WERE AFRAID OF, DOCTOR!

"AND SO THE BABY GREW OLDER! HE WAS NEVER REALLY HAPPY! THE TROUBLE WAS THAT PEOPLE WERE SQUEAMISH --"

I--I CAN'T STAND MUCH MORE OF THIS! HE MAKES ME WISH I COULD MIX POISON WITH HIS PABLUM!

"THERE WERE LUXURIES APLENTY AS HIS UPBRINGING CONTINUED, BUT THAT DIDN'T DO MUCH GOOD! IT WOULDN'T--FOR ANYONE LIKE HAROLD!"

I--I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO REMOVE HIM FROM THIS SCHOOL, MR. HONEYWELL! IT ISN'T ONLY PHYSICALLY THAT HE'S WARPED, BUT--WELL, GET HIM OUT--THAT'S ALL I ASK!





GET MY TECHNIQUE? BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHY THEY CALL ME THE CORPSE-MAKER? AH, I HAD LITTLE HAROLD SIMMERING WITH RAGE AND HATRED BY NOW! AND ALTHOUGH HE COULDN'T SEE ME, YOU CAN BE SURE THAT I WAS WHISPERING IN HIS EAR, WHISPERING OF REVENGE.. OF RED, RED BLOOD! SO HE WAITED UNTIL SHE WAS ALONE -- THEN FIXED HIS CRUEL LITTLE FEATURES INTO WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A WINNING SMILE --



YOU KNOW, I FEEL LIKE A DOLL ALONGSIDE YOU, MARILYN! -- SAY, LET'S PLAY A GAME! LET'S PRETEND I AM A DOLL-- YOUR DOLL! TAKE ME ON YOUR KNEE LIKE YOU WOULD YOUR DOLL-- WHILE I TELL YOU ABOUT THE DIAMOND NECKLACE I SAW TODAY!



WHOSE LI'L DOLL IZZUM? MAMA'S AFWAID YOU'RE NAUGHTY!

MAMA DOESN'T HAVE TO WORRY--



NO--NO--
DON'T--

BECAUSE SHE'S GOING
TO BE PUT AT REST--



AH, YES--IT WAS A LOVELY CORPSE I GAINED, READER--AND I LOVE CORPSES! SO I KEPT ON WHISPERING TO LITTLE HAROLD, JUST AS I'M WHISPERING TO YOU! I MADE HIM SEARCH

OUT ANOTHER VICTIM FOR HIS REVENGE CAMPAIGN! SHE WAS A GIRL WHO LACKED MONEY TO STUDY ART-- AND TINY MR. HONEYWELL WAS SO PHILANTHROPIC--

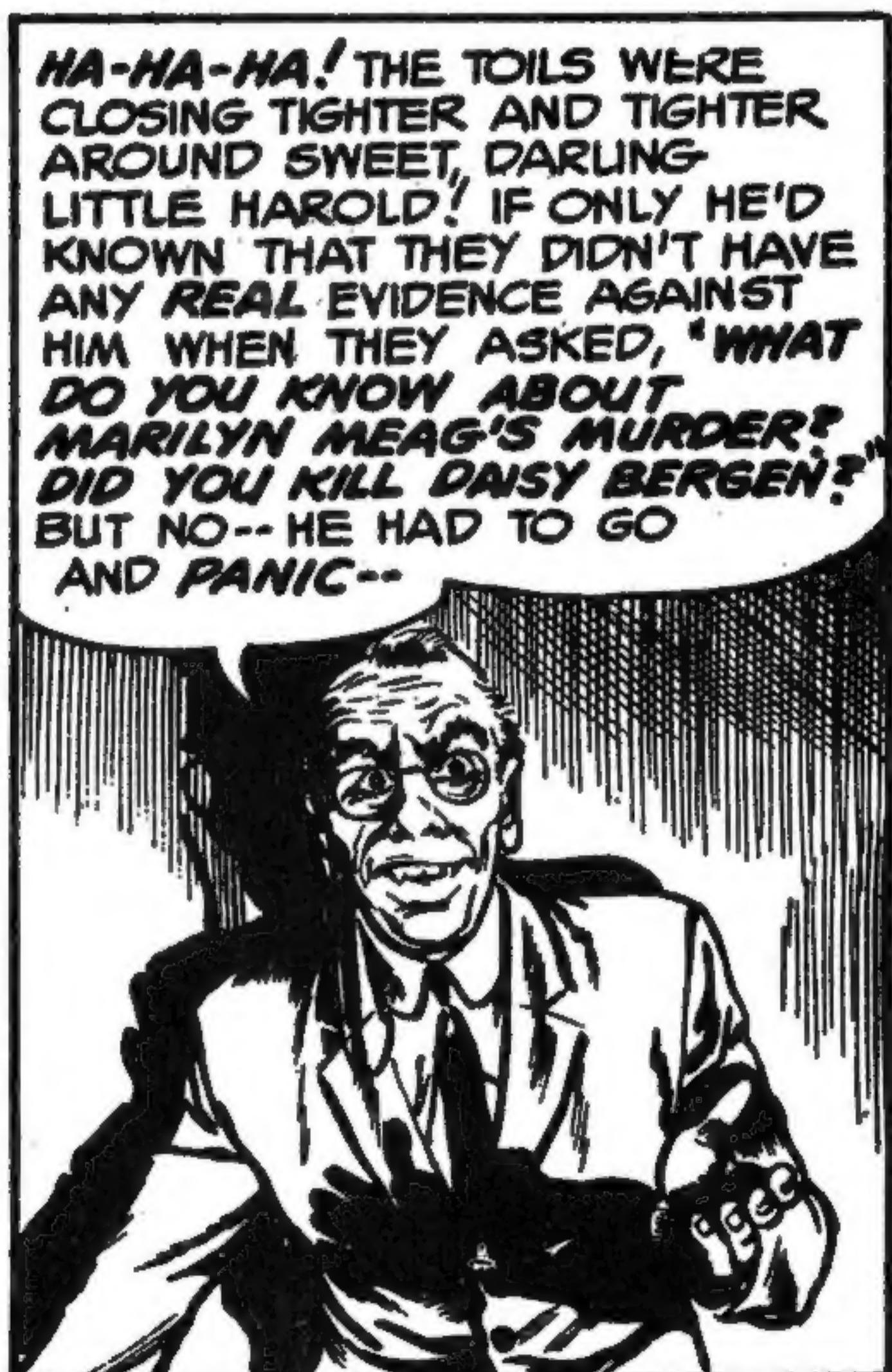
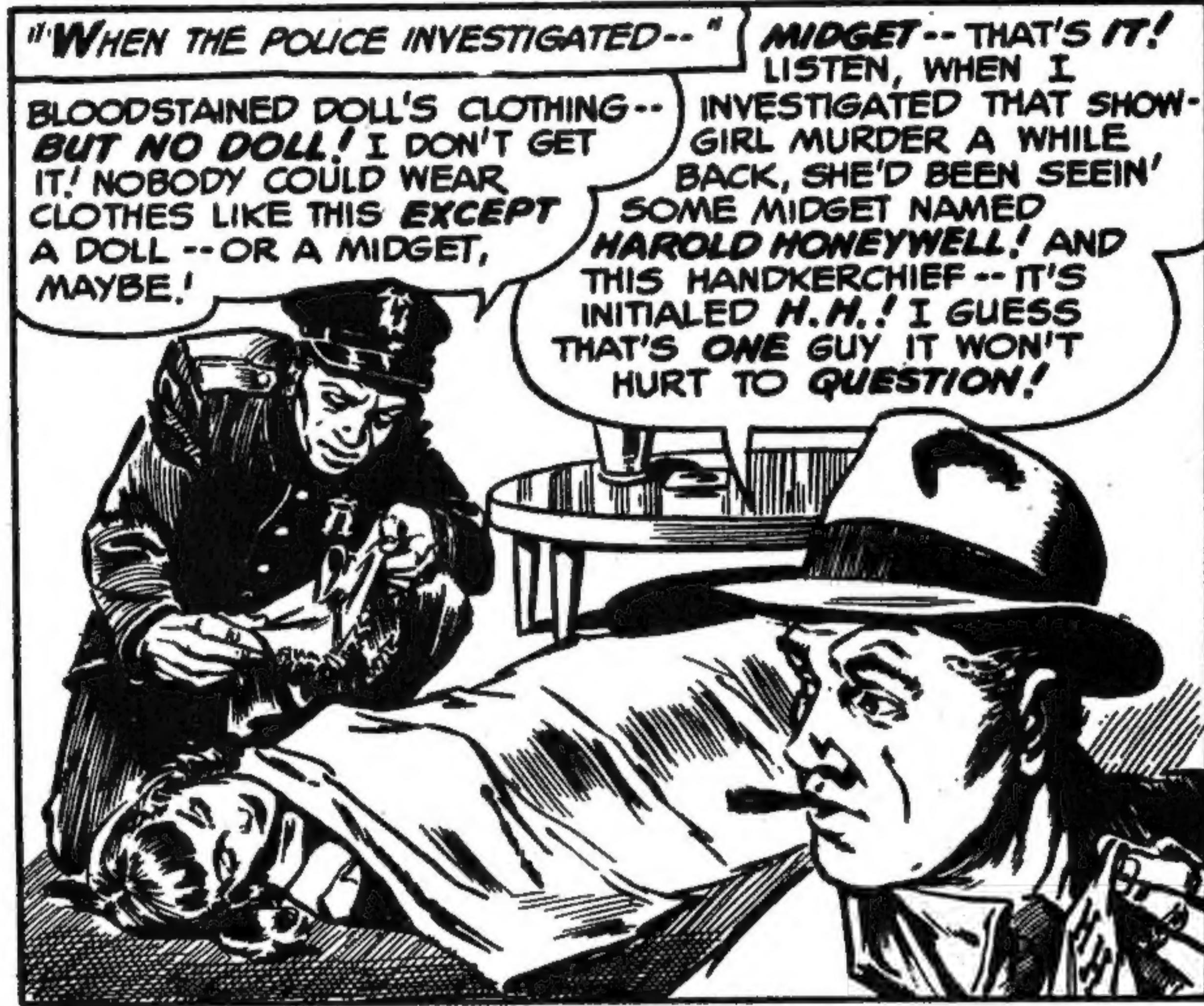


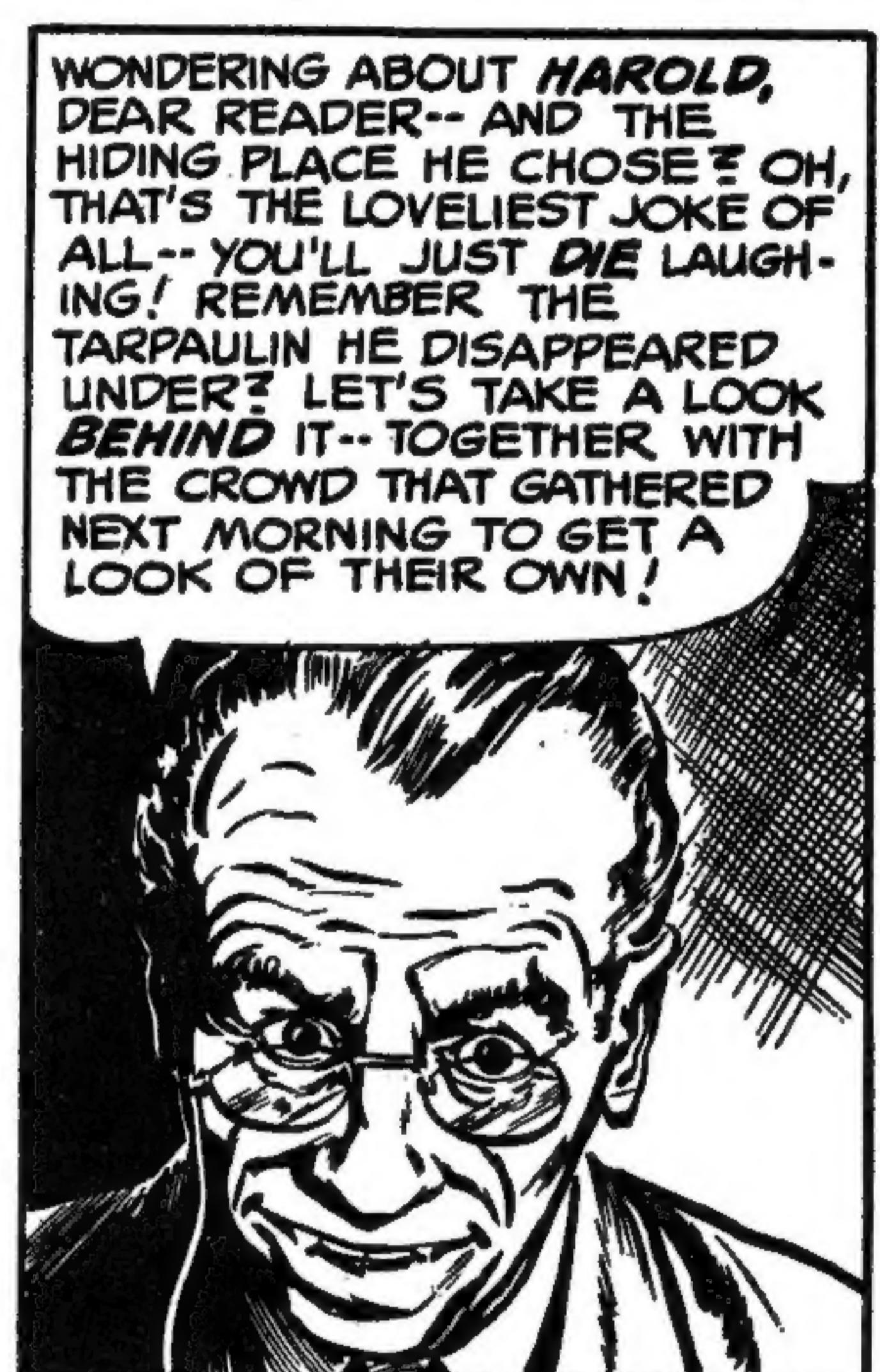
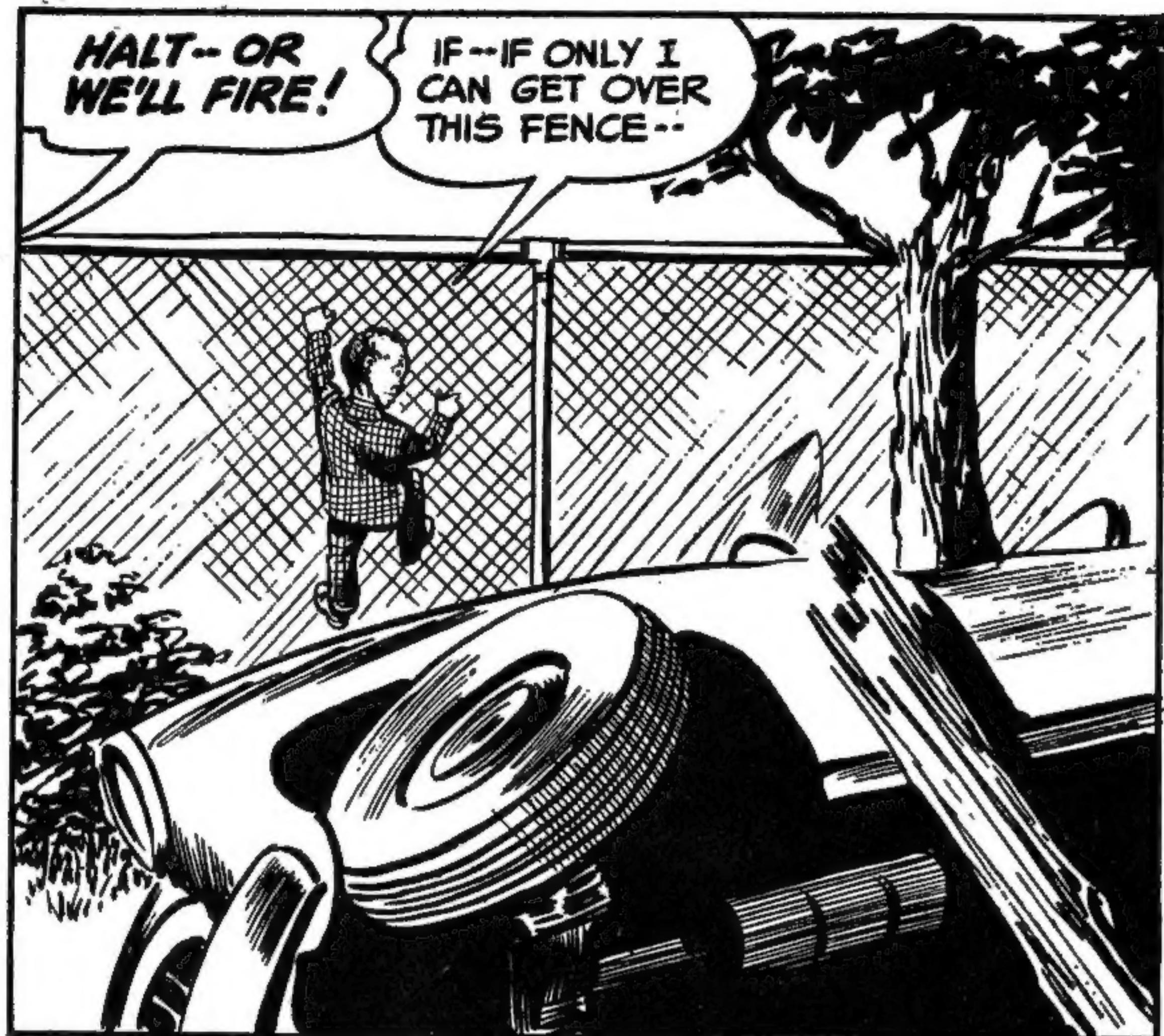
--THAT SHE WANTED TO REPAY HIM IN SOME FASHION! AND SO SHE FELL IN EAGERLY WITH ANOTHER OF HIS BLOODY LITTLE GAMES!"

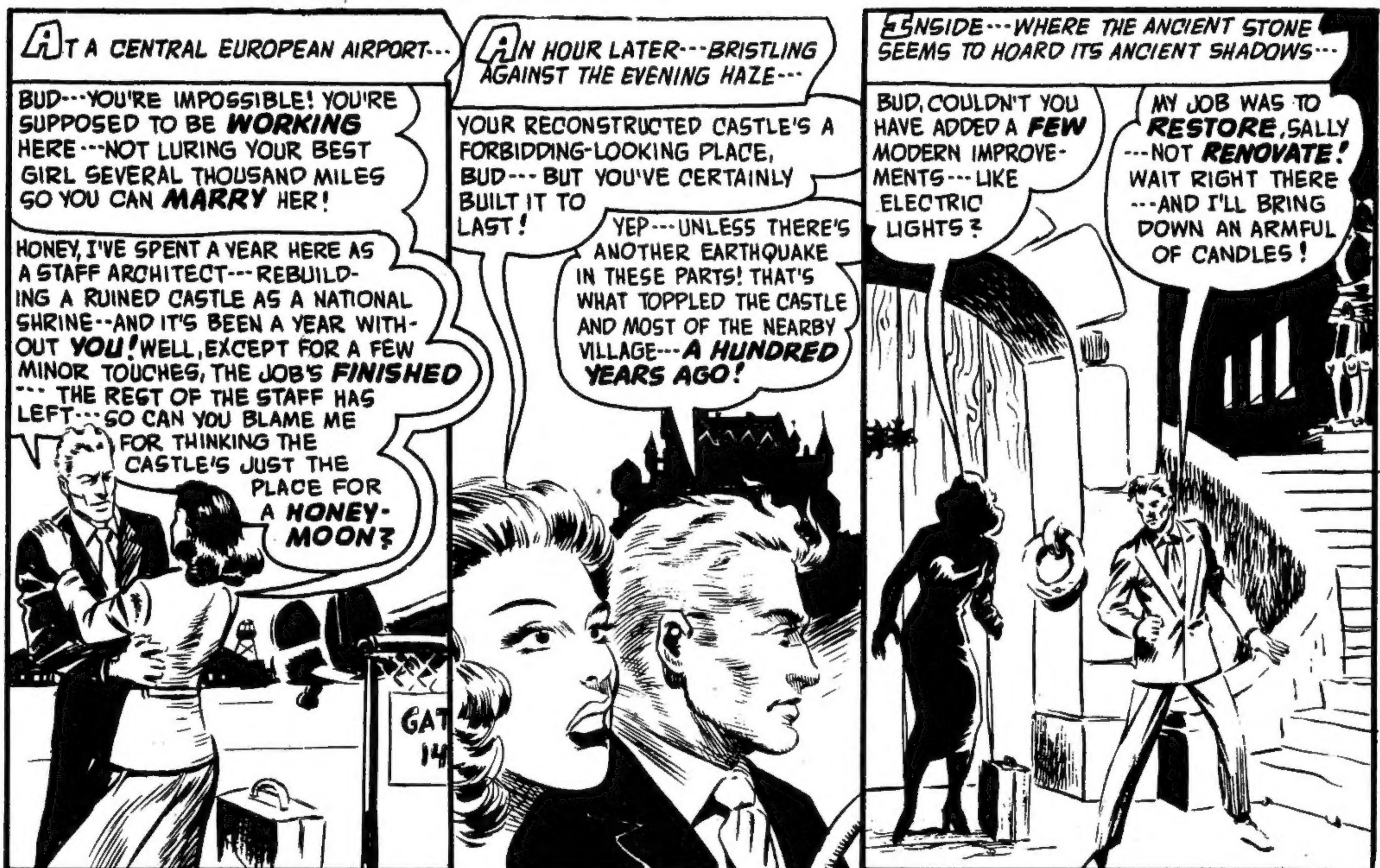
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO THE ART STUDENTS' BALL, DAISY--AND I'VE GOT A WONDERFUL IDEA FOR COSTUMES FOR BOTH OF US--IF YOU'LL GO WITH ME, THAT IS!

I'D BE GLAD TO, MR. HONEYWELL! AFTER ALL, YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH FOR ME!











MINUTES LATER ... IN A PASSAGE-
WAY CHOKED BY DEBRIS AND THE
MUTED ECHOES OF THE PAST ...

YOU'RE SHARING AN
OCCASION, SALLY ---
BECAUSE I HAVEN'T
BEEN DOWN HERE
BEFORE!

YOU HAVEN'T?
THEN THIS IS A
GOOD TIME TO
WAIT ... UNTIL
YOU TELL ME
WHAT THAT
LIGHT'S DO-
ING UP AHEAD!

DON'T GET RATTLED,
SALLY! I DON'T KNOW WHO
IT CAN BE ... BUT THERE IS
SOMEONE JUST BEYOND
THAT TURN ...
DIGGING!

BLAM!
BLAM!

PANTING AND STRAINING IN THE
YELLOW LAMP GLOW ...

SILVANA!

CRASH!

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT
YOU'RE DOING? THIS VAULT'S
BEEN PARTLY CLEARED ...
**AND YOU'RE BLOCKING
IT UP AGAIN!**

IT IS BETTER THAT
WAY! I KNOW ... BECAUSE
I AM OLD ... **BECAUSE
I SAW HIM DIE!**

AS SILVANA MOVES OFF ... HER SHADOW TOTTERING
AHEAD OF HER ...

THAT MAY SOUND LIKE
THE HARMLESS MUMBLING OF
AN OLD WOMAN, BUD ... BUT NOW
I'M SURE IT MEANS SOME-
THING ... SOMETHING THAT
MAKES MY FLESH
CRAWL!

WAIT UP! THERE'S A
DOOR I NEVER KNEW
EXISTED ... HALF-
HIDDEN BEHIND
THE RUBBLE!

BUD ... HADN'T WE BETTER
LEAVE IT ALONE? IF SILVANA
DID HAVE A REASON FOR
BLOCKING THE VAULT ...
**HER PURPOSE WAS
TO HIDE THAT
DOOR!**

SURE ... SHE'S **FULL**
OF QUIRKS! I'M
GOING IN ... IT'S
PART OF MY JOB!

FOR A MOMENT, THE STORED-UP DARKNESS SEEMS TO
SWALLOW THE LAMPLIGHT ... AND THEN ... GLEAMING ON
THE MUSTY FLOOR ...

BUD ... THEY'RE
BONES!

TAKE IT EASY, HONEY!
IT'S A SKELETON.
ALL RIGHT ... BUT
AT LEAST IT
ISN'T HUMAN!

IN FACT, SALLY --- I CAN'T QUITE GUESS **WHAT** IT IS! THE HEAD'S GONE --- BUT THE **REST** SEEMS TO RESEMBLE AN ANCIENT PTERODACTYL!

YOU MEAN ONE OF THOSE FLYING REPTILES THAT LIVED IN PREHISTORIC TIMES? BUT WHAT WOULD ITS BONES BE DOING HERE?

WHO KNOWS... MAYBE THE FORMER OWNER OF THE CASTLE WAS INTERESTED IN NATURAL HISTORY! I'LL TOTE THIS THING UP TO THE MAIN HALL --- AND MAYBE I'LL HAVE TIME TO LOOK IT OVER TOMORROW!

THAT NIGHT...

I STILL THINK OLD SILVANA DIDN'T WANT US TO FIND THOSE BONES! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO CONVINCE BUD --- I'M GOING TO WATCH AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS NOW THAT THEY'VE BEEN UNCOVERED!



MINUTES LATER --- AS IF THE DARKNESS GAVE A HINT OF A NEARING PRESENCE ---

SOMETHING'S MOVING NEAR THE WINDOW! AND I KNOW WHO IT'LL BE --- SILVANA!



THEN --- FLITTING THROUGH THE MURKY GLOOM ---

GOOD HEAVENS!



IN THE NEXT HORROR-LADEN INSTANT ---

OH! THAT... THAT HEAD TOOK ONE OF THE BONES --- IT'S FLAPP-ING AWAY WITH IT!

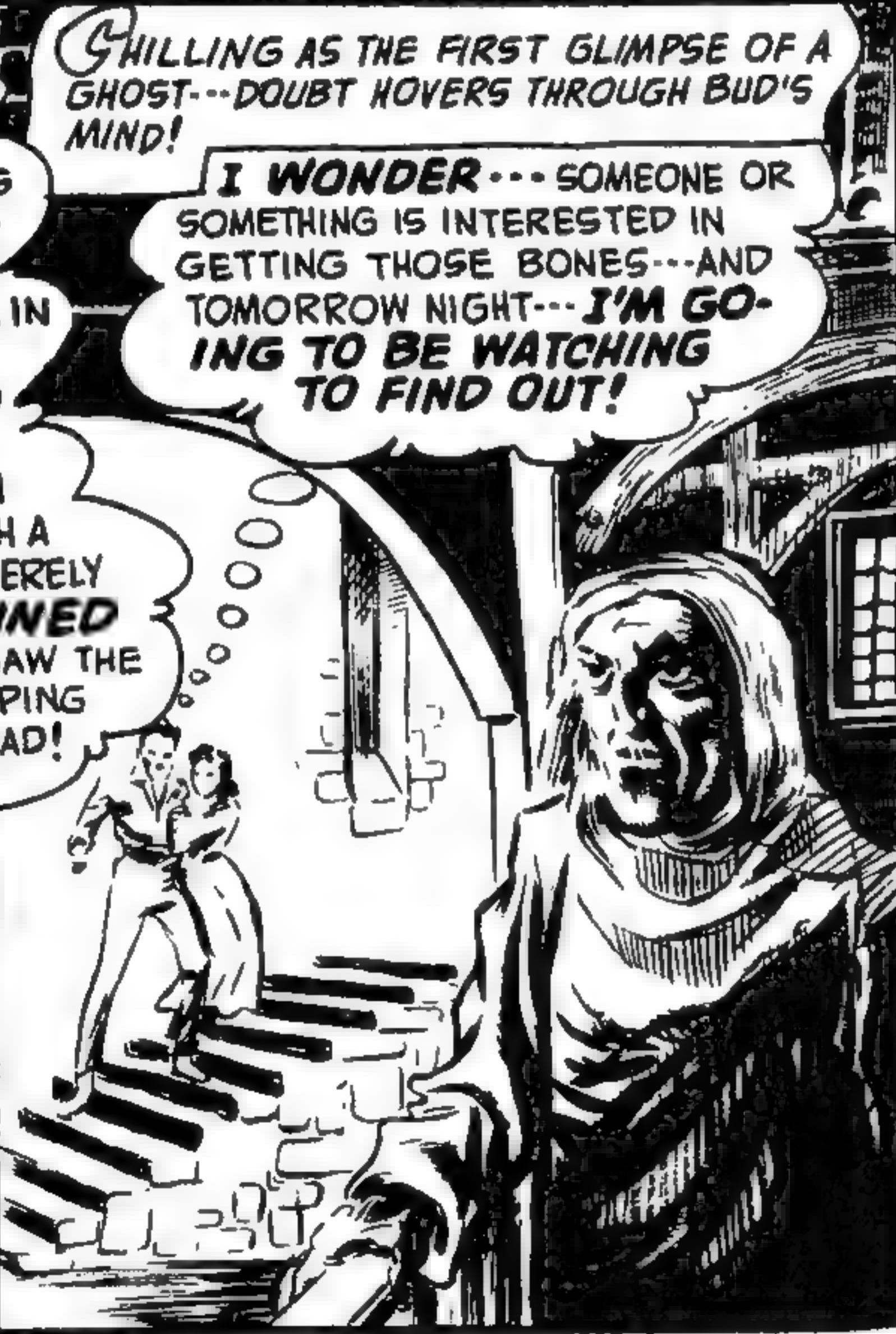
SALLY! YE GODS ... WHAT'S WRONG?

BUD --- DON'T TELL ME IT WAS IM-POSSIBLE! I SAW IT... I SAW IT!

I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING WHILE SALLY'S IN THIS STATE --- BUT THERE'S SILVANA --- WATCH-ING! MAYBE SALLY WAS RIGHT ABOUT HER IN THE FIRST PLACE --- MAYBE IT WAS SILVANA WHO TOOK THE BONE FOR SOME warped REASON --- GIVING SALLY SUCH A SHOCK THAT SHE MERELY IMAGINED SHE SAW THE FLAPPING HEAD!

CHILLING AS THE FIRST GLIMPSE OF A GHOST --- DOUBT HOVERS THROUGH BUD'S MIND!

I WONDER --- SOMEONE OR SOMETHING IS INTERESTED IN GETTING THOSE BONES --- AND TOMORROW NIGHT --- I'M GO-ING TO BE WATCHING TO FIND OUT!



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...

I'M SURE WE WON'T SEE ANYTHING YET, BUD! WE'RE EARLY---IT WAS EXACTLY MIDNIGHT WHEN I SAW THE FLAPPING HEAD!

WAIT---HEAR THAT? SOUNDS LIKE SLOW FOOTSTEPS---COMING CLOSER!

HUNKED AND MUTTERING IN FEEBLE MOONLIGHT...

I WILL NOT SEE HIM DIE AGAIN---BUT HE WILL DIE---TONIGHT!

Then, through the bristling gateway ---past

the rustling hedges---

YOU CAN'T CALL THIS A QUIRK, BUD! SHE TOOK THE BONES---ALL OF THEM!

SHE'S STOPPING AT A MOUND---IT'S A GRAVE IF I EVER SAW ONE ---AND THERE'S THE BONE THAT DISAPPEARED LAST NIGHT ---THRUST INTO THE TURF!

LOOK---LOOK! SHE'S PUSHING THE OTHER BONES INTO THE MOUND ---ONE BY ONE! BUD, WE NEEDN'T WONDER ANY MORE ABOUT SILVANA ---THIS IS WITCHCRAFT---OR SOMETHING WORSE!

SUDDENLY---AS THE LAST BONE TOUCHES THE PULSING MOUND---

AAGH!

FOR AN INSTANT, THE BONES CLATTER TOGETHER LIKE GRISLY DRUMBEATS IN THE MOONLIGHT---THEN---AS THEY MERGE...



BUD, THAT'S THE FLAPPING HEAD I SAW---BUT NOW IT HAS A BODY ---IT'S A VAMPIRE!

THAT EXPLAINS WHY THOSE BONES WE FOUND LACKED A HEAD! YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU SAW LAST NIGHT, SALLY! THE ONLY WAY THE FLAPPING HEAD COULD COLLECT ITS BONES WAS TO CARRY THEM OFF, ONE BY ONE---UNTIL SILVANA BROUGHT THEM HERE!



ONLY IF I MAKE THE MISTAKE OF PREYING ON SOMEONE WHO IS MARKED FOR DEATH --- **SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT LIVE TO SEE THE DAWN!** THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED A HUNDRED YEARS AGO WHEN AN EARTHQUAKE STRUCK --- KILLING SCORES --- INCLUDING A MAN WHO HAD FELT MY FANGS THAT VERY NIGHT!



I KNEW THEN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN --- THAT HIS SPIRIT WOULD COME TO MY DAMAGED CASTLE --- AND DESTROY THE PART OF ME THAT WAS A **VAMPIRE**! AND THE PART OF ME THAT WAS **HUMAN** WOULD FLUTTER FOREVER AS THE **FLAPPING HEAD** --- SEEKING ITS BODY --- OR ITS BONES!



BUT THE SPIRIT FIXED THAT, EH --- BY SENDING THE EARTHQUAKE-WEAKENED WALLS CRASHING DOWN ON YOUR HEAD-LESS BODY --- SO THAT YOU'D NEVER FIND IT!

NO --- NOT THE SPIRIT! THERE WAS A GIRL I INTENDED TO MARRY --- AND SHE RUSHED TO THE CASTLE TO SEE IF I WAS SAFE! SHE REACHED HERE JUST IN TIME TO SEE HOW I DIED --- JUST IN TIME TO REALIZE WHAT I WAS --- **IN A BLINDING STAB OF HORROR THAT DROVE HER MAD!**



THE FLAPPING HEAD WATCHED HER --- BUT WHAT COULD IT DO? SHE CROUCHED THERE IN THE RUINS, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT --- SEASON UPON SEASON --- **AND SHE DID ONE THING**! FIRST THE HEAVY SLABS A YOUNG GIRL COULD MOVE IN HER JABBERING FRENZY --- THEN THE BRICKS THAT TREMBLED IN AN OLD WOMAN'S HAND --- **AFTER A CENTURY OF PILING THEM ON ME!**



THEN --- WITH A HISSING SWOOP ...



THE GIRL --- HERE? THEN WHO WAS IN HER BED --- WHO WAS MY FIRST VICTIM TONIGHT?

WHO PILED THE STONES, CREEP? AND WHO KNEW YOU WERE BOUND TO BE RESTORED --- AND GATHERED UP YOUR BONES TO MAKE **SURE** IT WOULD HAPPEN TONIGHT?



YOU TRICKED ME...TRICKED ME INTO VICTIMIZING YOU...KNOWING YOU WERE ABOUT TO DIE!

FIEND...DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS? WATCH...DO YOU REMEMBER HOW I LOOKED THEN?



NOW THE LONG NIGHTS REcede...AND THE DREARY SEASONS...ALL IN A SINGLE CRACKLING FLASH!

THIS IS HOW I WAS! BUT YOU PREYED ON ME IN MY LAST GASP OF LIFE...WHEN I KNEW I WOULD NEVER SEE ANOTHER DAWN! I PLANNED IT THAT WAY, MONSTER...CAN YOU GUESS WHY?



DOWN INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE CASTLE RACE THE SCUTTLING FOOTSTEPS...AND DOWN GLIDES THE SILENT PURSUER!

COME ON, SALLY! IF THAT DEMON IS SLATED FOR PERDITION...IT'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SEE!



SILVANA...WAIT! JOIN ME IN EVIL, AND WE WILL KNOW MID-NIGHTS UNENDING...TOGETHER!

TOGETHER...AFTER I HUDDLED IN THESE RUINS FOR A HUNDRED YEARS ALONE...UTTERING A CURSE FOR EVERY STONE I HEAPED UPON YOU? ONE THING KEPT ME ALIVE--THE THOUGHT OF THIS MOMENT--WHEN MY GHOST WOULD DOOM YOU FOREVER!



WHEN THE SPECTRAL SHAPE REARS LARGER...LOOMING ABOVE THE CRINGING VAMPIRE...PRESSING WITH UN-EARTHLY POWER AGAINST THE YIELDING STONE!



AAAGH!

CRASH!



SILVANA...ALIVE AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS! SHE TRIED TO KEEP US FROM UNCOVERING HIS BONES, BUT...AND WHEN THAT FAILED...SHE KNEW WHAT HAD TO BE DONE IN THE LAST HOURS OF HER LIFE!

THIS TIME THERE WON'T BE ANY FLAPPING HEAD, HONEY! HER SPIRIT WILL SEE TO THAT...BECAUSE THIS IS ONE PART OF THE CASTLE THAT WILL BE HERS DOWN TO THE VERY LAST UNTOUCHED STONE...FOREVER!



The END!

The TIME DESTROYER



"Of all creation's mystic forces, the most mysterious is TIME! A ticking clock--a paper calendar--they tell us only that time is PASSING! But to find out what time IS, we must get into it--take it apart--DESTROY it! Then we shall know what wonders--or unspeakable terrors--it hides from us!"

FROM BARTON KENDALL'S
THESIS ON TIME



ALONE-- BART STARED AT HIS AWE-SOME INVENTION-- AN ODD IMPATIENCE OVERCOMING HIM--

I-- I CAN'T WAIT! I MUST MAKE THE FIRST TIME VOYAGE-- NOW!



SUDDENLY, THE LABORATORY WAS LIT BY A SULPHUROUS FLASH-- AND OUT OF NOTHINGNESS, A STRANGELY FAMILIAR SHAPE MATERIALIZED!

HOLY SMOKES!
-- IT'S FATHER TIME HIMSELF!
BUT IT CAN'T BE!

BUT IT IS! LISTEN,
MORTAL-- CAREFULLY!
I HAVE REVEALED
MYSELF TO YOU FOR
A PURPOSE! I COME WITH A
WARNING!



YOUR FIANCEE IS RIGHT!
YOU FLIRT WITH DISASTER!
NO MAN MAY FLOUT THE
FORCES OF THE UNIVERSE!
TAMPER WITH TIME AND
YOU MAY DISTURB THE
NATURAL FLOW OF
EVENTS!

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
WHAT COULD HAPPEN?

MUCH! TAKE HEED
-- DARE GO BACK
INTO TIME, AND
YOU MAY RETURN
TO A DIFFERENT
WORLD!

THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
I'M STILL GOING
THROUGH WITH MY
PLANS!

SO BE IT! BUT
REMEMBER--
YOU HAVE
BEEN
WARNED!



THROUGH A WHIRLING VORTEX
OF SPINNING DARKNESS--
WHERE MINUTES SEEMED
LIKE EONS! THEN--

YIPPEE! I DID IT-- I
TURNED BACK THE
CALENDAR-- TO
COLONIAL
AMERICA!
NOW TO HAIL
THOSE
PILGRIMS!

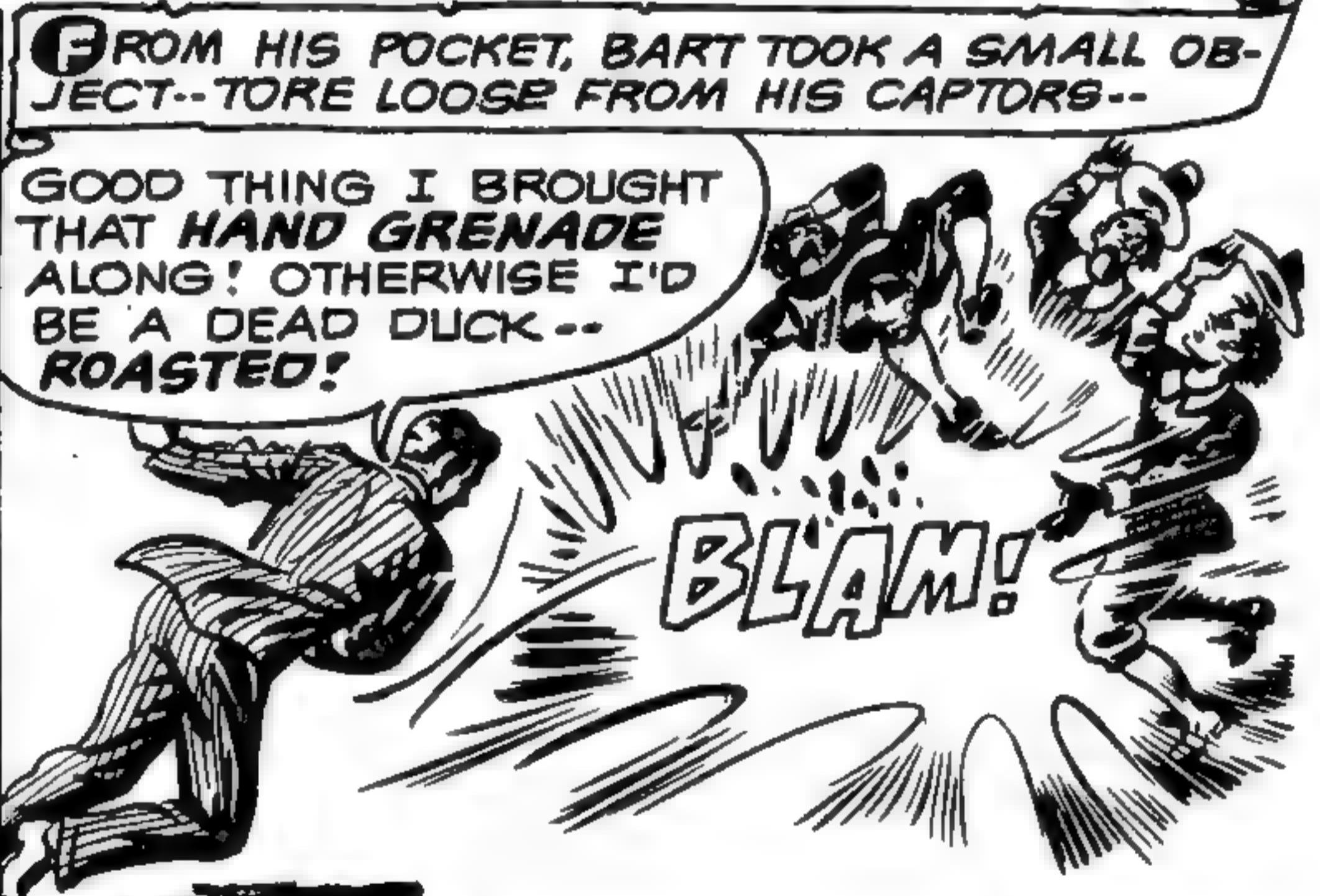
HI,
FELLAS--
CAN YOU
SHOW
ME THE
BIG
WHEEL
AROUND
HERE?

PRITHEE -- THY
TALK IS STRANGE,
FELLOW-- AS IS
THY DRESS!
THOU HAD
BEST COME
TO THE
COUNCIL--
QUICKLY!

STUNNED BY BART'S STRANGE
DRESS, SPEECH, AND BEHAVIOR,
THE VILLAGE COUNCIL ACTED AT ONCE--

HE IS DOUBTLESS
A WIZARD!--
A PRACTISER OF
THE BLACK ARTS!
LET HIM SUFFER THE
FATE OF THOSE IN
LEAGUE WITH
SATAN!

YE GODS! HOW
CAN I EXPLAIN
TO THEM THAT
I'M A
SCIENTIST?



A TERRIBLE DREAD DOGGED THE BRIEF RETURN JOURNEY! WHAT WOULD HE FIND?.. WHAT CHANGES MIGHT HIS JOURNEY INTO TIME HAVE WROUGHT?

THANK GOODNESS-- **NOTHING'S** CHANGED! EVERYTHING IS EXACTLY AS I LEFT IT!



BUT-- THROUGH THE OPEN DOORWAY--

GREAT GUNS! THE CITY-- IT'S GONE! THERE'S NOTHING HERE BUT A WILDERNESS!



AGAIN, A BLINDING FLASH-- AS FATHER TIME RETURNED--

YOU WERE WARNED OF THE PERILS OF DISRUPTING NATURE'S COURSE! ONE OF THE MEN YOU KILLED WITH THE BOMB WAS THE FOUNDER OF THIS CITY! WITH HIM DEAD-- IT WAS NEVER BUILT!

NEVER BUILT? THEN WHAT ABOUT THE INHABITANTS? WHAT ABOUT--



RONNIE! SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE AT FOUR... W--WILL SHE BE?

NO, MY SON! YOU SEE-- YOU KILLED HER ANCESTOR, JOHN HOLMES!

-- AND THUS-- RONNIE WAS NEVER BORN!

OH, NO! BUT-- THERE MUST BE A WAY OUT! THERE MUST BE A WAY FOR ME TO UNDO THE HARM I'VE CAUSED!

PERHAPS-- BUT I AM POWERLESS TO HELP YOU!



WAIT-- I'VE GOT IT! I'LL GO BACK AGAIN-- AND SEE TO IT THAT NO HARM COMES TO JOHN HOLMES! THAT WAY I'LL SAVE THE CITY, AND GET RONNIE BACK!



BACK ONCE MORE TO THE 17TH CENTURY! BUT THIS TIME, BART WAS PREPARED TO ALTER THE FRIGHTFUL CATASTROPHE HE HAD CAUSED...

MY TIMING WAS PERFECT-- IT'S EXACTLY TEN MINUTES BEFORE MY LAST ARRIVAL! HOPE THIS PILGRIM'S COSTUME FOOLS 'EM!



TO THE VILLAGE, AND A DIFFERENT RECEPTION--

PRITHEE, FRIENDS-- I SEEK ONE JOHN HOLMES-- THE LARGE HOUSE NEAR THE SOUTH BLOCKHOUSE, NEIGHBOR!



MINUTES LATER, AS BART FACED LONNIE'S ANCESTOR--

YES, I AM JOHN HOLMES-- BUT STATE THY BUSINESS SWIFTLY-- I AM NEEDED ELSEWHERE!

HURRY, JOHN-- THE VILLAGE COUNCIL HAS CONDEMNED A WIZARD TO BURN AT THE STAKE IN THE SQUARE!



A DESPERATE GAMBLE-- WITH HIS SWEETHEART'S LIFE AT STAKE!

THIS TIME BUSINESS GETS VERY CONFUSING-- BUT IN A SECOND THERE'LL BE A HAND GRENADE EXPLOSION OUT THERE!

SORRY, PAL-- BUT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN PREVENT YOU FROM GETTING KILLED!



BACK HOME-- TO FIND FATHER TIME WAITING--

WELL, I SAVED JOHN HOLMES! NOW, HOW ABOUT LONNIE-- IS SHE ALL RIGHT?

YES, SHE IS FINE, BUT--

REMEMBER-- I WARNED YOU-- BUT IF YOU STILL WANT TO SEE LONNIE--

I'VE GOT TO SEE HER! WHERE IS SHE?



SO GREAT WAS BART'S RELIEF-- HE BARELY HEARD THE SOLEMN WORDS--

WHEN YOU STRUCK JOHN HOLMES, YOU DESTROYED HIS MEMORY-- MADE HIM AN INVALID-- HIS SWEETHEART WAITED 15 YEARS TO MARRY HIM! THUS-- HERE IS YOUR FIANCEE, FIFTEEN YEARS YOUNGER!

THE END

FIEND of MIDNIGHT



HE'S COMING TO-
WARD US! STOP
HIM, JOHN!
STOP
HIM!

LOOK OUT! IT...IT'S THE FIEND
OF MIDNIGHT...SWORN ENEMY
OF EVERY LIVING CRAIG!

BRAVELY, JOHN CRAIG CHARGED--FELT
HIS FIRST PASS RIGHT THROUGH THE
FEARSOME SPECTOR!
THEN--

POW!

FOOL,
MY HOUR
WILL
COME!

HE'S GONE!
DISSOLVED IN
THE DAYLIGHT!

GONE, YES...BUT NOT FOR GOOD!
THAT WAS THE FIEND OF MIDNIGHT!
THE ANCIENT CRAIG LEGEND SAYS IT IS
THE RESTLESS SPIRIT OF THE MAN
WHO MURDERED YOUR GREAT-
GRANDFATHER! ACCORDING TO
THE LEGEND---

BEFORE JOINING HIS CAVALRY
REGIMENT, RODERICK CRAIG HID
HIS FORTUNE AND LEFT HIS OVER-
SEER IN CHARGE OF THE PLANTA-
TION---

THIS IS THE KEY TO MY
HIDDEN WEALTH, PARKER!
I TRUST YOU...GUARD IT
WELL!

YOU KNOW
I'D NEVER
FAIL YOU,
SIR!

WHEN HE RETURNED, HE PUT HIS
SABER INTO ITS CASE ---

NEVER AGAIN
SHALL THAT BLADE
BE USED TO KILL!
AND NOW---HOW
HAS IT BEEN AT
HOME?

I...
I'VE BEEN
IN TERROR!
PARKER HAS BE-
TRAYED YOU!
HE'S TRYING TO
USE THE KEY---SEEK-
ING EVERY NIGHT FOR
THE FOR-
TUNE YOU'VE
HIDDEN---

ENRAGED, RODERICK CALLED IN
HIS OVERSEER AND ---

YOU FAITHLESS
TRAITOR! GIVE ME
BACK THE KEY...
AND GO!
THERE'S ONE
PLACE I HAVEN'T
LOOKED YET! IF I
GET A LEAD THERE,
I'LL STEAL THE KEY
BACK---AND
THEN---

"**L**HAT NIGHT, RODERICK FOUND THE OVERSEER PROWLING IN THE CHURCHYARD! THEN---"



"**B**UT THERE WAS NO TIME FOR FURTHER SEARCH--THE EVIL OVERSEER WAS EXECUTED FOR HIS FOUL MURDER! ON THE GALLows..."



"**I**N SO IT HAS BEEN! THE CRAIG FORTUNE REMAINS HIDDEN TO THIS DAY---AND THE SPIRIT OF THE OVERSEER, NOW KNOWN AS THE FIEND OF MIDNIGHT, IS DOOMED TO WANDER! IT WILL LOSE ALL MORTAL POWER AND RETURN TO ITS GRAVE ONLY WHEN THE FORTUNE IS FOUND BY ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER! TILL THEN--- IT IS FREE TO PREY UPON THE TERROR-STRICKEN COUNTRYSIDE!"



"...AND THAT'S THE STORY, MR. CRAIG! SOME SAY THAT ONLY A DESCENDANT OF THE CRAIG FAMILY SHALL BE ABLE TO FIND THE HIDDEN FORTUNE---UNLESS THE FIEND OF MIDNIGHT GETS THERE FIRST!"

IT'S **MY** RIGHTFUL HERITAGE, AND I'M WILLING TO FIGHT FOR IT! TAKE ME OUT TO THE OLD PLACE--- I'M READY TO FACE THE FIEND AT HIS WORST!



"**S**EVERAL DAYS LATER---

TURN ONTO THAT ABANDONED ROAD---TO THE RUINS OF THE OLD MANSION! IT STILL BELONGS TO THE CRAIG FAMILY, THOUGH NO ONE HAS LIVED THERE FOR ALMOST A CENTURY!"

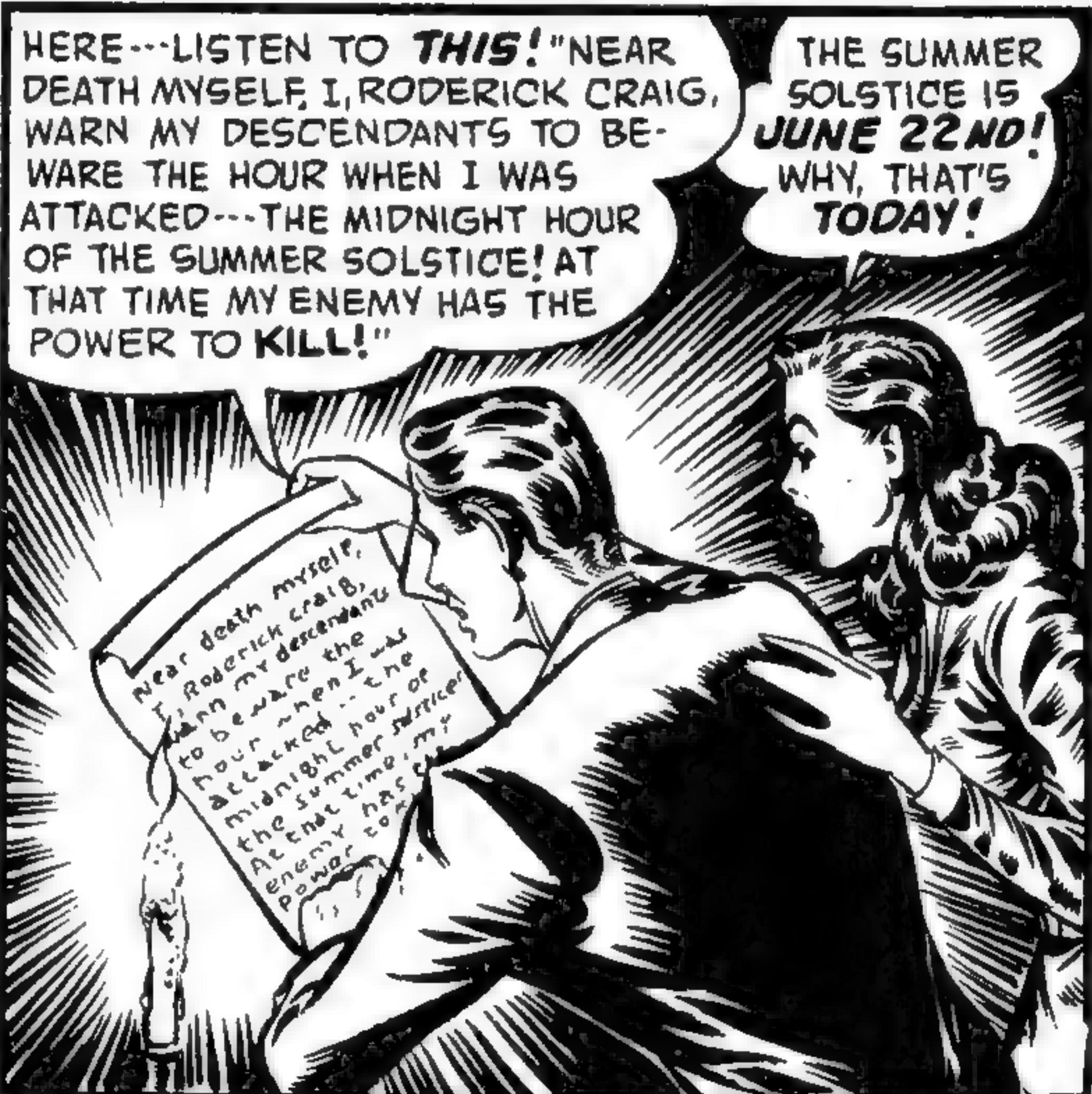
BUT SOMEWHERE THERE'S A FORTUNE HIDDEN---AND I'VE GOT THE KEY! I'LL FIND IT---DEPEND ON THAT!



DON'T BE SO SURE, MY BRAVE YOUNG FRIEND! **AFTER** A CRAIG DESCENDANT FINDS THE FORTUNE, I SHALL SEIZE IT! IT SHALL BE MINE! ALL MINE!





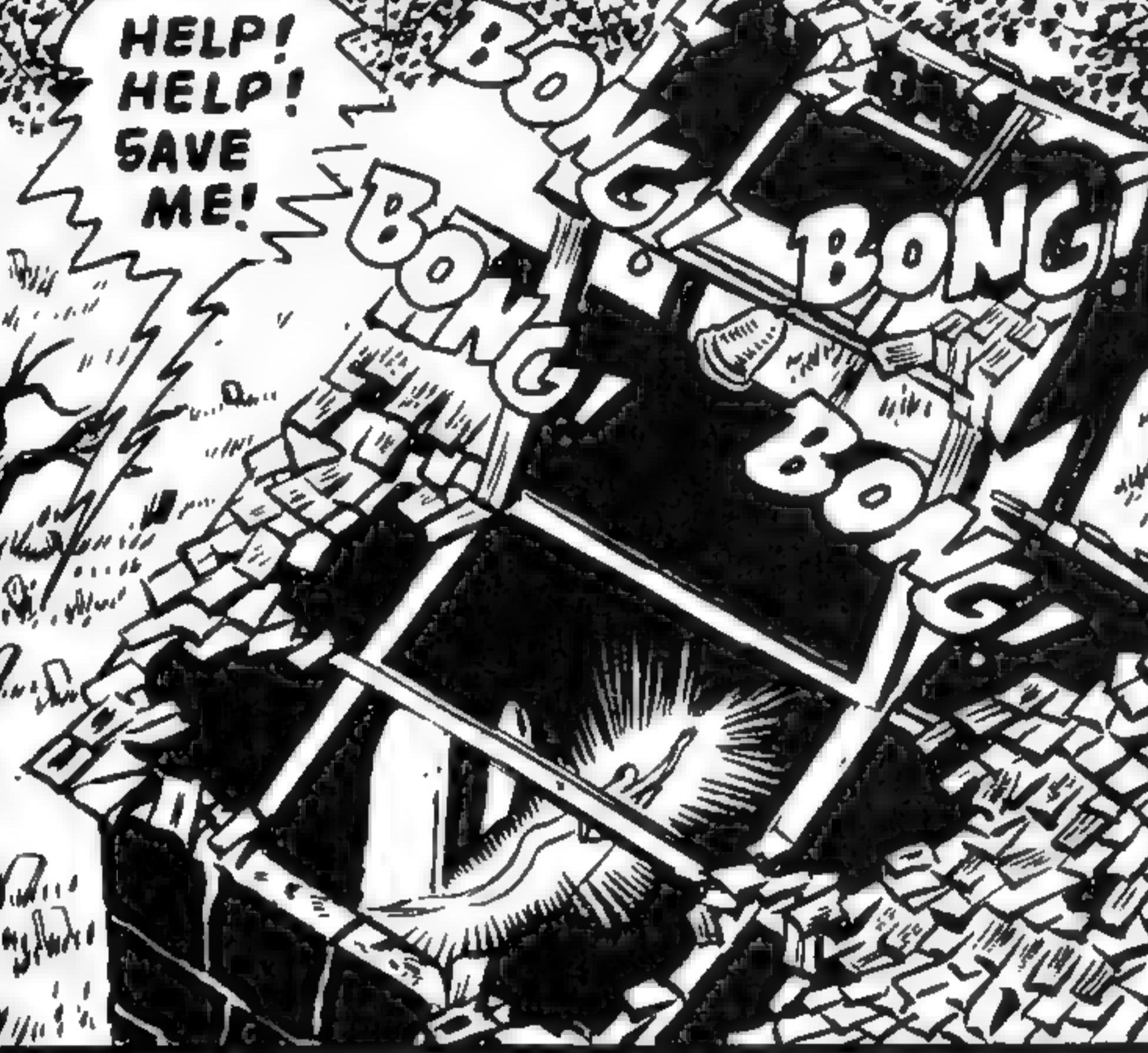


GOOD OLD RODERICK...HE'S WARNING US FROM **BEYOND THE GRAVE!**
NOW WE KNOW THAT THE FIEND IS DEADLY DANGEROUS AT MIDNIGHT
TONIGHT...THAT HE CAN ATTACK,
SLAY! WE'LL HAVE TO...THAT SOUND! WHAT IS IT?

IT'S THE OLD CHURCHBELL
---IT'S TOLLING!



AS THE OMINOUS KNELL ECHOES OVER THE MOLDERING ESTATE...



THE CHURCH BELL...IT STRUCK MIDNIGHT! AND THAT CRY FOR HELP! IT MEANS THAT THE FIEND HAS FOUND A VICTIM!

BE CAREFUL, JOHN!
HE IS YOUR ANCESTRAL ENEMY!

THUS PERISH ALL MORTALS WHO SEEK THE HIDDEN RICHES THAT I MYSELF COULD NOT FIND!

IT'S THE LAWYER...
HE'S KILLED HIM!
AND...
AND WE'RE NEXT!

HAH! NO MORTAL CAN HARM ME AT THIS TIME...NOT EVEN A CRAIG! NOW YOUR END IS NEAR!

HE...HE'S TOO STRONG FOR ME!



DEATH LOOMS CLOSER...CLOSER! BUT SUDDENLY...
A PHANTOM RESCUER!

YOU KILLED ME ONCE...BUT IT IS FORE-ORDAINED THAT OUR BATTLE CONTINUE! THIS TIME I FIGHT FOR THEM!

IT'S...IT'S THE GHOST OF MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER!

LEAVE, MORTALS... WHILE THERE IS STILL POWER WITHIN ME TO HOLD HIM OFF!

THE SPIRITS...THEY'RE RE-ENACTING THEIR MORTAL DRAMA!







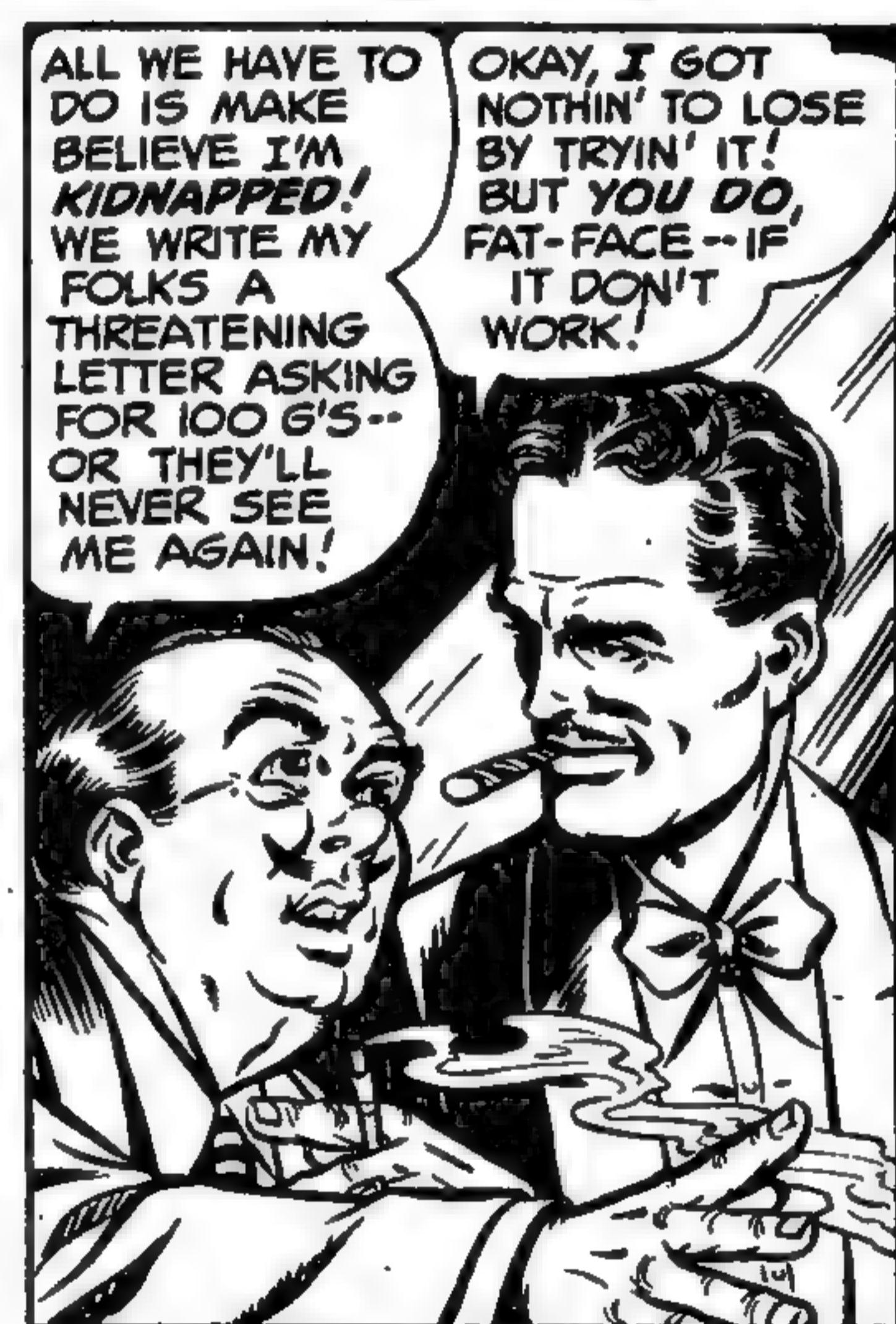


IT ALL STARTED IN BLACKIE ROME'S GAMBLING CASINO--



BUT POOR OLIVER'S LUCK WAS BAD ALL NIGHT!
FINALLY--





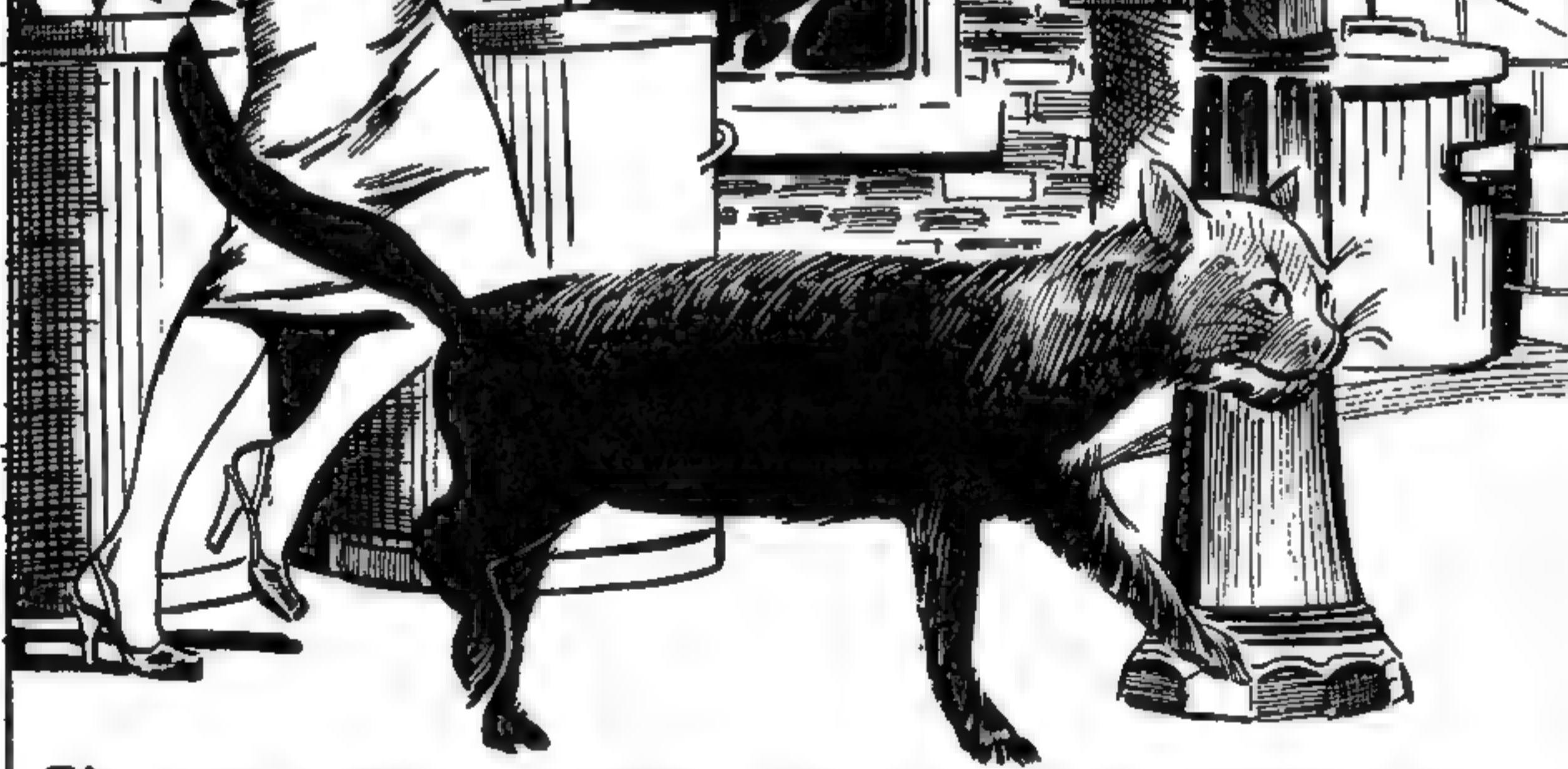
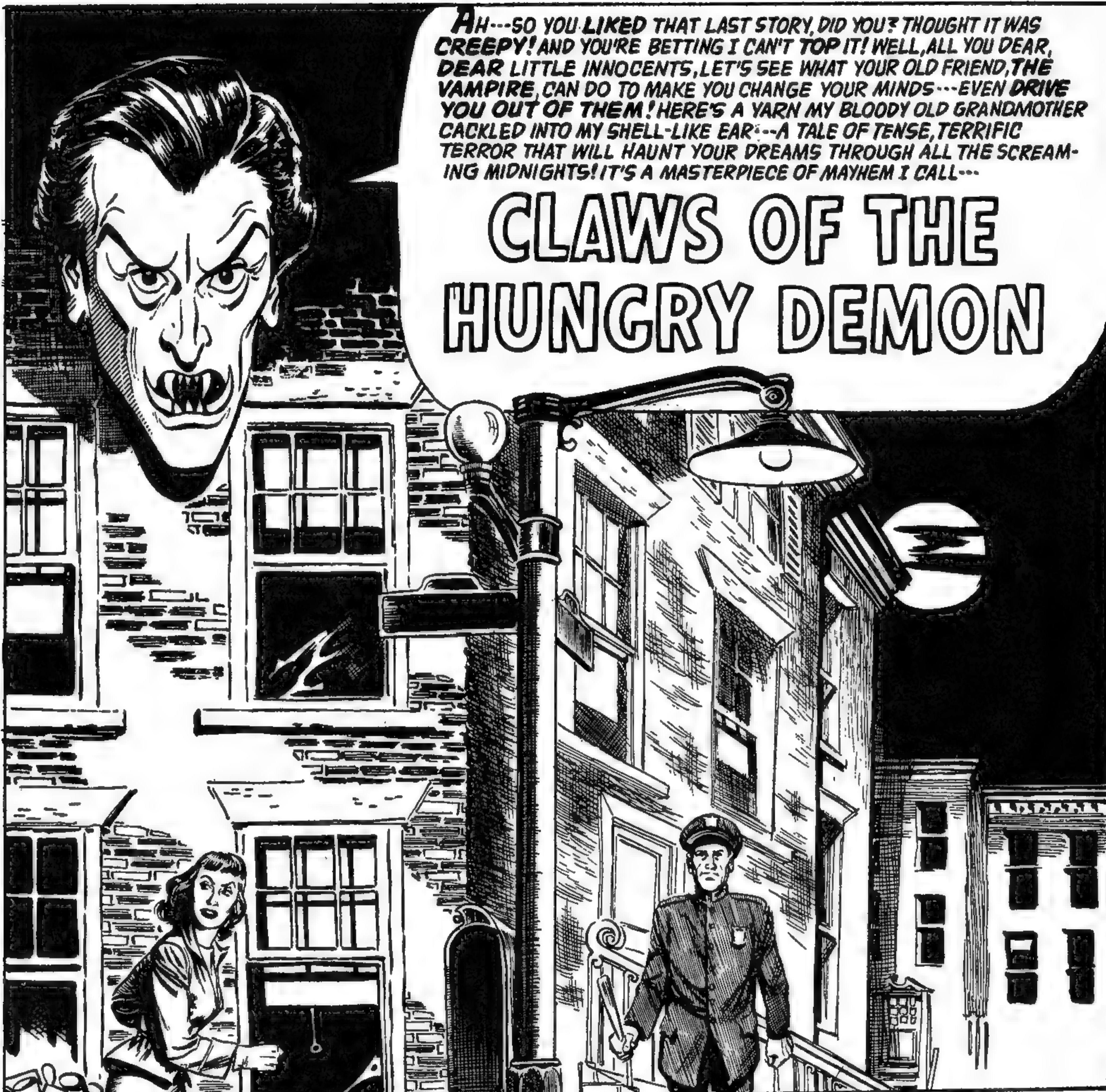






AH---SO YOU LIKED THAT LAST STORY, DID YOU? THOUGHT IT WAS CREEPY! AND YOU'RE BETTING I CAN'T TOP IT! WELL, ALL YOU DEAR, DEAR LITTLE INNOCENTS, LET'S SEE WHAT YOUR OLD FRIEND, THE VAMPIRE, CAN DO TO MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR MINDS---EVEN DRIVE YOU OUT OF THEM! HERE'S A YARN MY BLOODY OLD GRANDMOTHER CACKLED INTO MY SHELL-LIKE EAR---A TALE OF TENSE, TERRIFIC TERROR THAT WILL HAUNT YOUR DREAMS THROUGH ALL THE SCREAMING MIDNIGHTS! IT'S A MASTERPIECE OF MAYHEM I CALL...

CLAWS OF THE HUNGRY DEMON



THE CITY IS DARK AND QUIET---PARALYZED BY AN ICY FEAR! FOR MONTHS, THE CLAWED, BESTIAL HAND OF A HOMICIDAL MANIAC HAS BEEN AT ITS THROAT---EVER TIGHTENING! SOMEWHERE A DEMENTED KILLER PADS ALONG DARKENED ALLEYS AND SHADOWED STREETS---WHILE A TERRIFIED POPULACE SHUDDERS BEHIND BOLTED DOORS, MORBIDLY AWAITING THE LURID MORNING HEADLINES! NOW, AT 2 A.M., ALL IS HUSHED SAVE FOR THE MOANING WIND---AND THE SWIFT CLICKING OF HIGH-HEELED SHOES---RUNNING ...



ECHOING DOWN THE STONE CANYONS AND TWISTED ALLEYS OF THE CITY, THE PIERCING SHRIEK RASPED ACROSS NERVES STRETCHED TAUT WITH FEAR...



BUT IN THE LONELY STREET, THE BLANCHED FACE OF THE TERRIFIED GIRL FLOODED WITH RELIEF AT THE SIGHT OF THE FAMILIAR UNIFORM...



IT WAS A SIMPLE STORY--A LATE VISIT, NO TAXIS AT THE SUBWAY STOP TO TAKE HER TO HER DOOR...



AREN'T YOU GOING TO ACCOMPANY ME? IT'S NOT FAR ---AND I'M TERRIFIED! PLEASE, YOU'VE GOT SUCH A KIND FACE ---AND IT'S YOUR DUTY!

WELL... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! COME ON!



EAGERLY, SHE SEIZED THE YOUNG OFFICER'S ARM! SHE FELT SAFE NOW---EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT...

I'M SO GLAD I RAN INTO YOU! YOU'RE SO STRONG AND RUGGED-LOOKING! I MEAN... WELL... YOU KNOW...

YOU'RE NOT HARD TO LOOK AT YOURSELF, MISS! NOT BAD AT ALL!

HE SEEMED SO WHOLESOME, SO CLEAN-CUT! HOW COULD SHE SUSPECT THE TRUTH?

WHAT SORT OF PLACE DO YOU LIVE IN? I MEAN---ER---YOU LIVE ALONE?



HOW COULD SHE GUESS THAT THIS BLUE-UNIFORMED MAN, THE SYMBOL OF LAW AND ORDER, WAS PLANNING TO KILL HER?

SHE'S HAD A GOOD LOOK AT MY FACE! SOMEHOW I GOTTA GET UP TO HER ROOM, AND THEN... SHE DIES!



THREE WEEKS BEFORE, THE SCHEMING, CALLOUS MIND OF EX-CON MACK PARRIS HAD HIT UPON AN INGENIOUS PLAN...

WHAT A PERFECT SET-UP THIS IS!

KINDA DANGEROUS BUSINESS, MASQUERADIN' AS A COP! WHAT'S THE CAPER?

THAT'S MY BUSINESS! LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY, HUH?



THE IDEA WAS SIMPLE...AND RELATIVELY SAFE! FEW PEOPLE WERE ABROAD AT NIGHT IN THE TERRIFIED CITY...AND POLICE ENERGIES WERE CONCENTRATED ON TRACKING DOWN A HOMICIDAL MANIAC...



TO AN EXPERIENCED BURGLAR LIKE MACK PARRIS, THE WORK WAS CHILD'S PLAY...

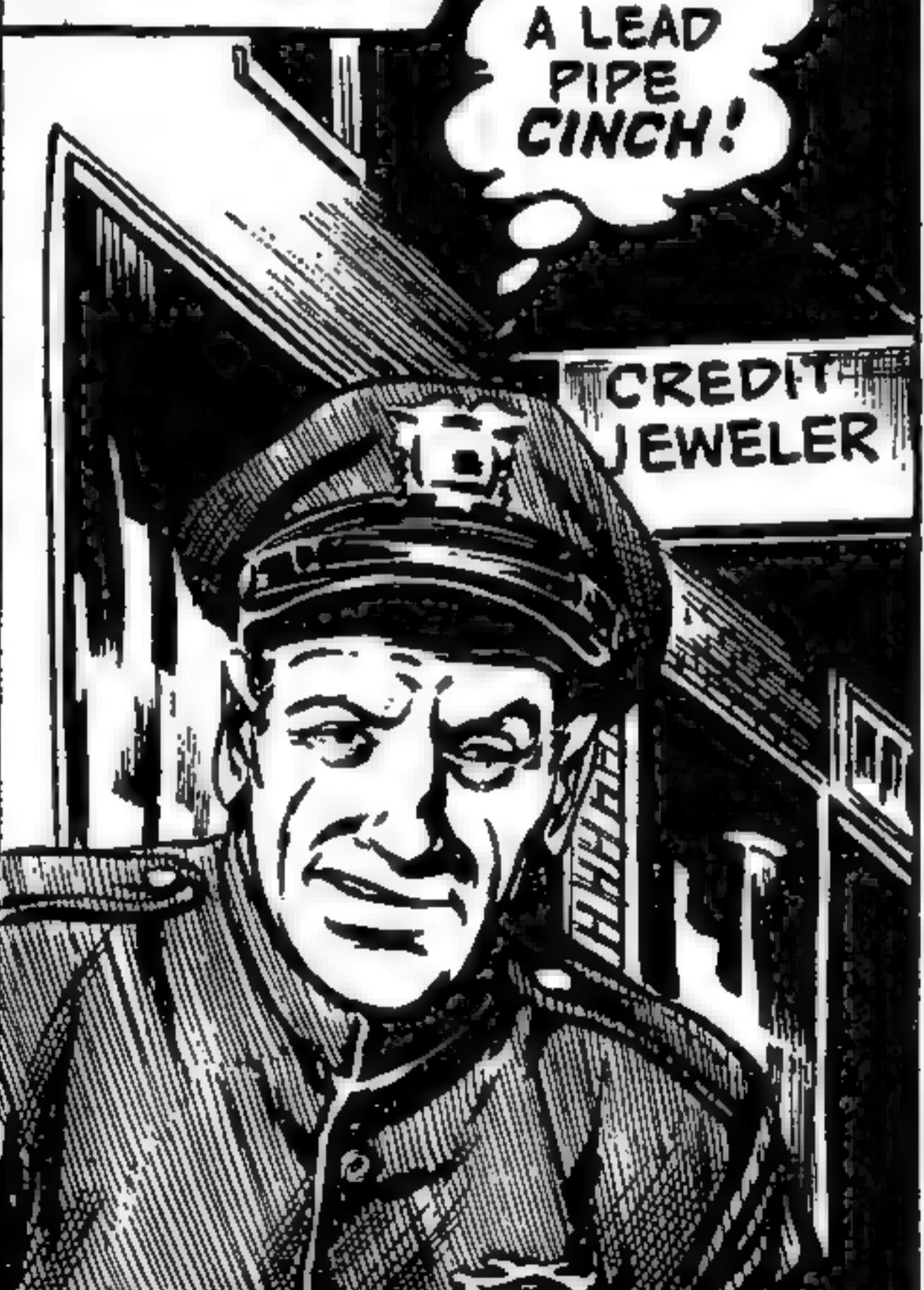


SNATCHING THE LOOT WAS MERE ROUTINE...



SO WAS THE GETAWAY...NO CAR, NO BREATHLESS RUNNING! HE MERELY WALKED...

A LEAD PIPE CINCH!



USUALLY HE MET NO ONE IN THE EMPTY STREETS, EXCEPT FOR AN OCCASIONAL POLICEMAN...

SAY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON MY BEAT? THE CHIEF DIDN'T...

I'M ONE OF THE SPECIAL AUXILIARY MEN! ON THE PROWL FOR THAT MANIAC!

I WISH THEY'D LET ME KNOW ABOUT THESE THINGS! BUT I GUESS THE CHIEF'S GOT A LOT ON HIS MIND THESE DAYS!

YOU BET! THAT MANIAC'S DRIVING EVERYBODY CRAZY!



MACK PARRIS STRUCK FAST AND OFTEN IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS---BUT HIS ACTIVITY WAS SCARCELY NOTICED BY THE NUMBED METROPOLIS---

LAST NIGHT THE DEMENTED KILLER STRUCK AGAIN! THE SLASHED AND DISMEMBERED BODY OF A YOUNG WOMAN WAS FOUND SCATTERED OVER A DESERTED LOT! ALL OVER, EVERYONE IS ASKING, "WHO IS THE MANIAC? WHEN WILL THE POLICE TRACK HIM DOWN?"



YEAH, WHO IS THAT MANIAC? I OWE A LOT TO THE GUY---HE'S MADE LIVIN' AWFUL EASY!



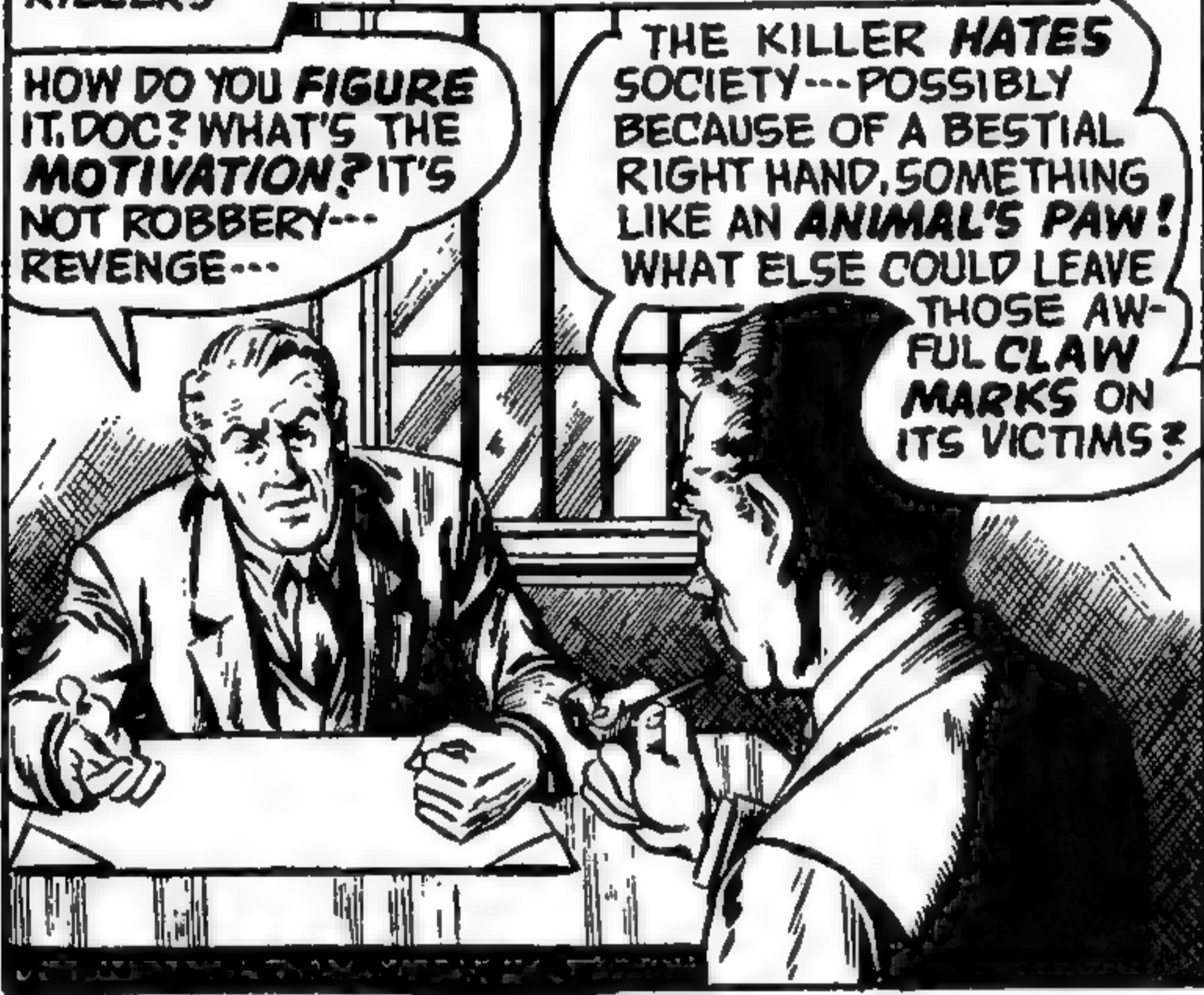
EVERYONE IN THE CITY HAD ASKED THE SAME QUESTION: "WHO IS THE MANIAC?" BUT NO ONE KNEW ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE MURDERER'S GRISLY PATTERN OF SAVAGERY---



THERE SEEMED TO BE NO MOTIVATION FOR THE BUTCHER-LIKE ATTACKS---SO LIKE THE WORK OF A WILD BEAST---



THE POLICE, DESPERATE FOR A CLUE, CONSULTED PSYCHIATRISTS WHO HAD WORKED WITH PATHOLOGIC KILLERS...



THIS DEFORMITY MAY HAVE WARPED THE PERSON'S BRAIN, LEADING HIM TO DETEST WOMEN FOR HAVING REJECTED HIM ---IN FACT, MAKING HIM HATE ALL PEOPLE!

HOGWASH! HE KILLS BECAUSE HE'S A NUT! DON'T GIVE ME ANY FANCY REASONS!



THESE WERE THE FACTS THAT THE SCHEMING, CALLOUS BRAIN OF MACK PARRIS CAREFULLY WEIGHED AS HE ESCORTED HOMeward THIS GIRL HE HAD MET BY CHANCE--

THE COPS AUTOMATICALLY TAKE ANY TORSO MURDER TO BE THE MANIAC'S WORK! I HATE DOIN' IT TO THIS SHAPELY DISH---BUT IT'S THE ONLY FOOLPROOF WAY! JUST LIKE BEFORE!



JUST LIKE BEFORE! YES, MACK PARRIS HAD KILLED ALREADY THAT NIGHT! IT HAD HAPPENED WHILE BURGLARIZING A NEARBY WAREHOUSE...

A COUPLE MORE WEEKS OF HAULS LIKE THIS AND I'LL BE SET!

WH-WHO'S THAT? SPEAK UP, OR...

HUH? A COP! WHAT'S GOING ON?

DIDN'T THE WAREHOUSE OWNERS TELL YOU I'D BE AROUND TO CHECK?

NO, NOBODY TOLD ME -- UGHH!

THE OLD NIGHTWATCHMAN FELL HEAVILY TO THE FLOOR! THE EX-CON WENT TO WORK SWIFTLY...

TOO BAD... BUT IF HE LIVES, THIS MASQUERADE IS COOKED! I KNOW A WAY TO POLISH THE OLD TIMER OFF AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE THE MANIAC'S JOB!

AGAIN AND AGAIN THE AXE FELL, HACKING AND GRINDING THROUGH THE WARM FLESH OF THE NIGHTWATCHMAN...

**NOBODY'LL SUSPECT A SANE MAN DID THIS! IT'LL JUST BE ANOTHER HEADLINE IN TOMORROW'S PAPER!
MANIAC STRIKES AGAIN!
HA-HA-HA!**

LEAVING THE DISMEMBERED BODY SCATTERED THROUGH THE WAREHOUSE, THE SELF-SATISFIED CRIMINAL HURRIED SWIFTLY AWAY...



AND THAT'S WHEN HE'D RUN INTO HER! IT WAS NOT ONLY THE GIRL FOR WHOM THAT IMPACT SPelled TERROR...



FOR HIM THE FOLLOWING MOMENTS WERE A BEDLAM OF FEAR AND CONFUSION...UNTIL ONE CLEAR FACT EMERGED...

AREN'T YOU GOING TO ACCOMPANY ME? IT'S NOT FAR...AND I'M TERRIFIED!

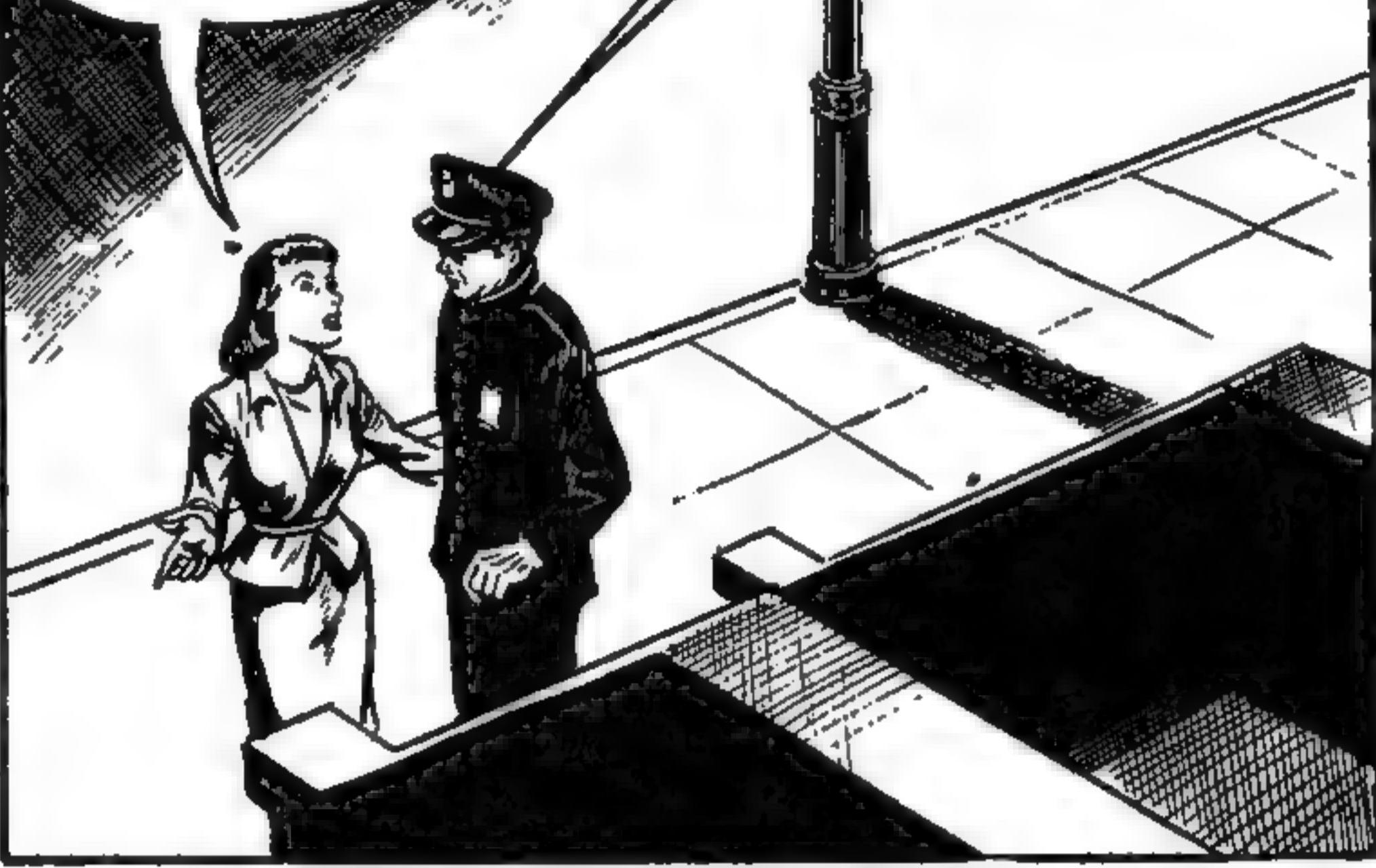
SHE...SHE'S SEEN MY FACE! WHEN THE POLICE FIND THAT BODY IN THE WAREHOUSE, THEY'LL START ASKING QUESTIONS... THIS GIRL JUST MIGHT GIVE ME AWAY!



FOR A MOMENT, THE GIRL'S WARMTH AND CHARM FILLED HIM WITH MISGIVINGS! PERHAPS, AFTER ALL, SHE COULD BE ALLOWED TO LIVE...BUT THIS MERCIFUL IMPULSE WAS SHORT-LIVED...

WELL, HERE WE ARE! COULD YOU...TAKE ME UPSTAIRS? THE HALLS, YOU KNOW...

I THINK I'D BETTER! CAN'T TELL, THAT MANIAC MIGHT BE LURKING ANYWHERE!



HIS MIND WORKED SWIFTLY AS THEY CLIMBED THE CARPETED STAIRS...HOW TO KILL HER SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OUTCRY...NO STRUGGLE...?

NICE PAIR OF GAMS... TOO BAD! NOW DON'T START GETTIN' SOFT, MACK--YOU AIN'T SAFE UNLESS THE GIRL DIES!



THANK YOU SO MUCH, OFFICER! ER...CAN I FIX YOU A CUP OF COFFEE?

SAY, THAT'S A GOOD IDEA! I CAN STAND A BIT OF A BRACER!



IT WAS A LACEY, FEMININE APARTMENT--HARDLY THE SETTING FOR A TORSO MURDER...

NOW YOU SIT RIGHT THERE! I'LL HAVE THE PERCOLATOR UP IN A SECOND!

I'LL HAFTA BE CAREFUL... GET MY HANDS AROUND HER THROAT BEFORE SHE HAS A CHANCE TO SCREAM...



THE COFFEE'S FRESHLY BREWED, AND HERE ARE SOME COOKIES I MADE MYSELF!

THANKS A LOT! I CAN'T WAIT TO GET A GULP OF THAT COFFEE! IT'LL...STEADY MY NERVES FOR WHAT I GOTTA DO!



HOMEMADE COOKIES, PIPING HOT COFFEE, AND A BEAUTIFUL GIRL--AND A ROOM ELECTRIFIED BY THOUGHTS OF MURDER...

WELL, HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU!
HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU!



PIPING HOT COFFEE TO BRACE THE NERVES...BUT THE EFFECT WAS UNEXPECTED...

I...I...
ARRGH!

DON'T FIGHT IT, MY
HANDSOME OFFICER! IN
ONLY A MOMENT, YOU'LL
BE DEAD!

THE BODY COLLAPSED WITH A SOFT THUD, TWITCHING
SILENTLY IN A PAROXYSM OF HIDEOUS PAIN...

THERE, THERE! IT WILL ONLY HURT
A SECOND LONGER
---STRYCHNINE
WORKS
SWIFTLY!

AAGH...
AAGH...
AAGH...

WHEN THE BODY WAS QUITE STILL, THE GIRL
DRAGGED IT TO THE TILE FLOOR OF THE
LARGE BATHROOM...

YOU SEE, MY FINE OFFICER, I COULDN'T
LET YOU LIVE AFTER YOU'D HAD SUCH
A GOOD LOOK AT ME! NOT WHEN OTHER
COPS WILL FIND A DISMEMBERED
WOMAN NOT SO FAR AWAY FROM
WHERE WE COLLIDED!

THE NEXT DAY SHE CARRIED
A SUITCASE OUT OF HER APART-
MENT...

...AND DEPOSITED IT IN A LOCKER
IN A NEARBY SUBWAY...



IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS THE POLICE ASSEMBLED
A CORPSE THAT HAD BEEN SCATTERED OVER A WIDE
AREA! PARTS WERE FOUND IN A SUITCASE ABANDONED
IN A SUBWAY LOCKER---OTHER PARTS WERE IN THICK
BROWN PAPER WRAPPINGS HERE AND THERE...

FINGERPRINTS IDENTIFY
THE BODY AS MACK PARRIS,
AN EX-CON!

THE WORK OF THAT
MANIAC, AGAIN! DOC,
IF I DON'T CRACK
THIS CASE I'LL GO
NUTS! WHO IS HE, I
WANT TO KNOW...
WHO IS HE?

AND IN ALL THE WIDE, TERRIFIED CITY, ONLY ONE
PERSON KNEW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION...



HOST TOWN



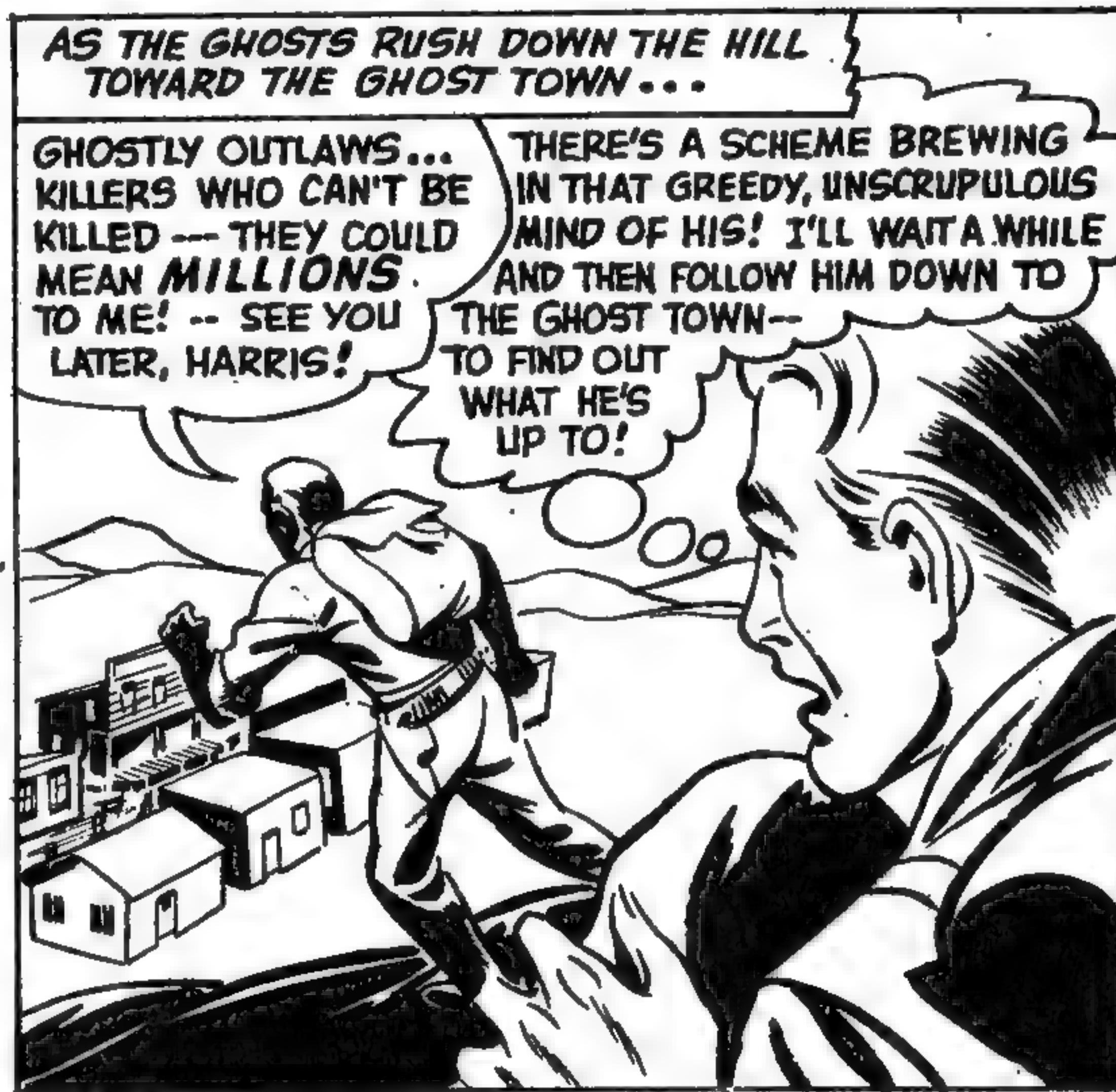
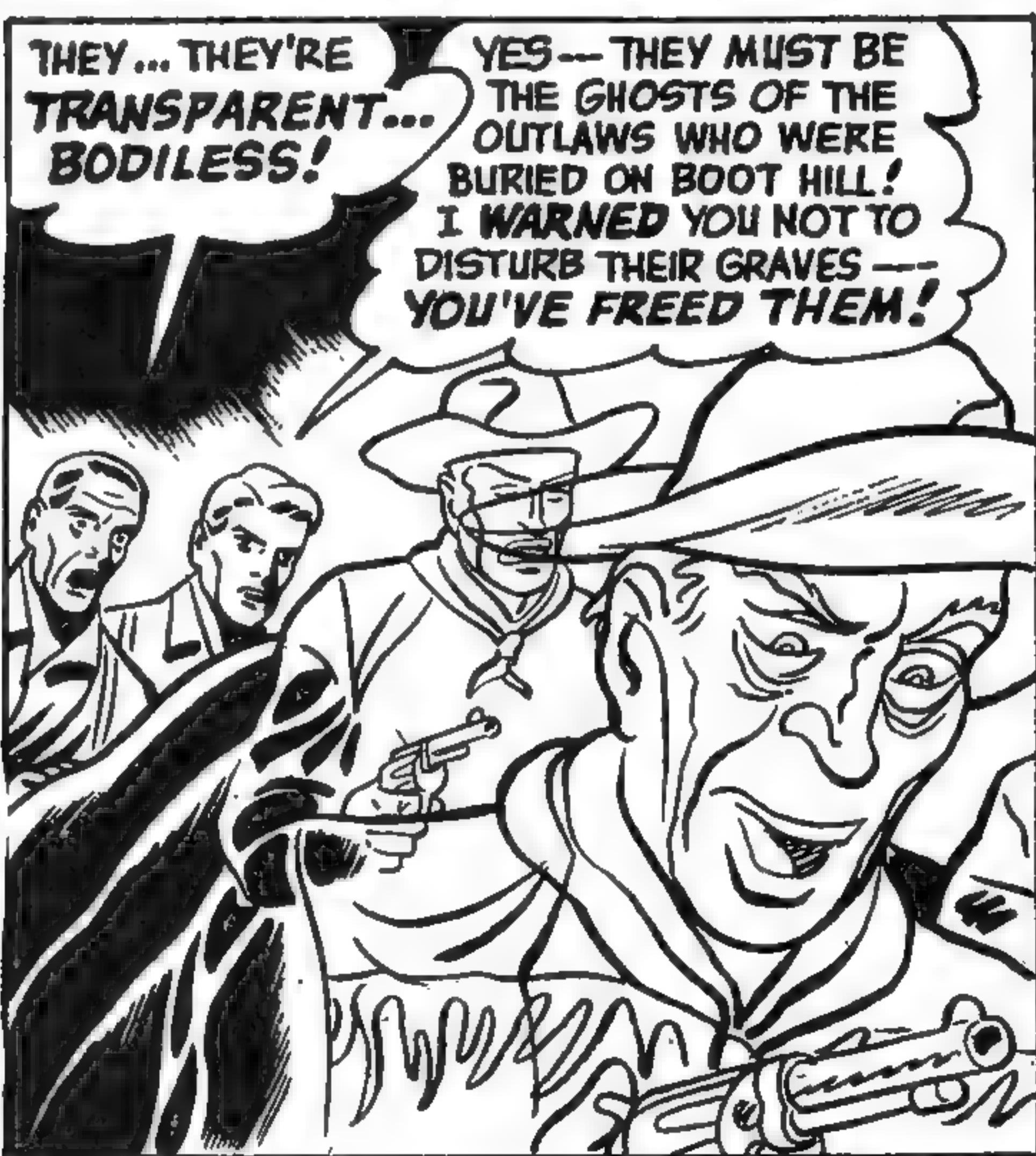
DEEP IN THE LONELY FASTNESS OF THE VULTURE MOUNTAINS IN WESTERN ARIZONA...



LEAD CITY, EH? WELL, IF THIS WAS THE SITE OF AN OLD LEAD MINE, IT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY THE GEIGER COUNTERS STOPPED CLICKING WHEN WE REACHED THE TOP OF THIS HILL! SURFACE LEAD CAN MASK URANIUM RADIATIONS -- SO I'M GOING TO BLOW A PIECE OFF THIS HILL -- AND THEN SEE IF THE COUNTERS RESUME THEIR CLICKING!

I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF THAT, PRESCOTT! MY MAP NAMES THIS SPOT **BOOT HILL** -- THIS IS WHERE THEY MUST'VE BURIED OUTLAWS! YOU'D BE DISTURBING THEIR GRAVES IF YOU DYNAMITED THE HILL!

WELL, YOU MAY BE RIGHT ABOUT THIS BEING A GRAVEYARD -- BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP ME! WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF -- **GHOSTS?**



SOON AFTERWARDS, AS PROSPECTOR GEORGE HARRIS EDGES INTO THE EERIE, DEAD TOWN...

THOSE OUTLAWS ARE BATTLING JUST AS THEY DID WHEN THEY WERE ALIVE -- EXCEPT NOW THEY'RE ALL UNKILLABLE! LET'S SEE -- THE KINGPIN OUTLAWS USUALLY TRANSACTED BUSINESS IN THE BACK ROOM OF THE SALOON -- AND I BET THAT'S WHERE PRESCOTT IS RIGHT NOW!



UNDER MY LEADERSHIP, YOU AND YOUR MEN CAN STEAL AND KILL AGAIN -- YOU CAN CRACK EVERY BANK IN THE WEST, HIJACK EVERY TRAIN, ROB EVERY POST OFFICE --- YOU'LL TAKE MILLIONS IN EACH HAUL WHEN I PICK THE TARGETS!

YEAH, BUT WE AIN'T GOT NO USE FER MONEY NO MORE --- YUH'RE THE ONE WH'LL BE GITTIN' THE MOST OUTA THE DEAL!



YOU'LL BE LIVING AGAIN -- CARRYING ON WHERE YOU LEFT OFF IN YOUR REAL LIFE!

HE'S RIGHT! WITHOUT SOME REAL ACTION, WE'D SOON WISH WE WUZ BACK IN OUR GRAVES!



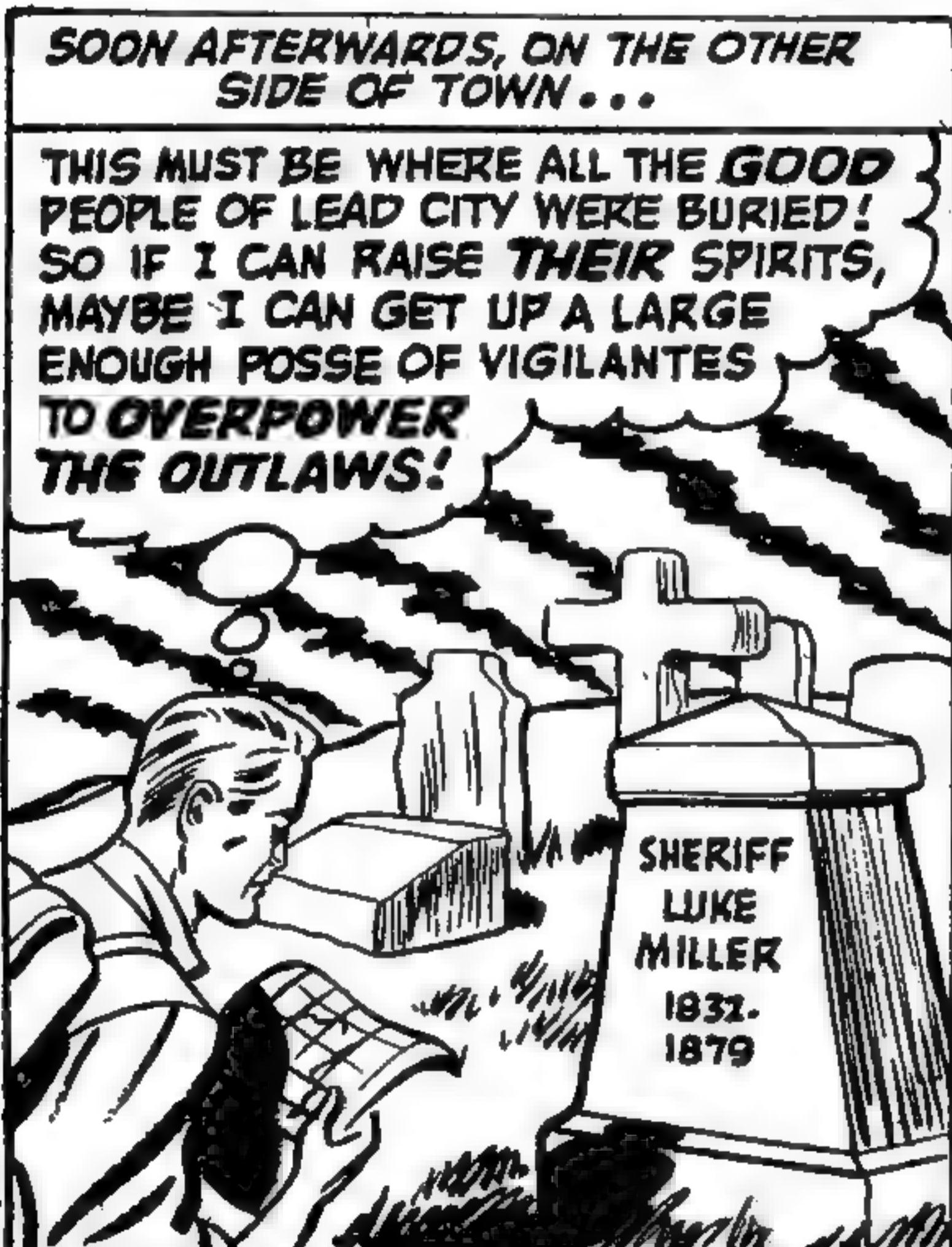
IT'S A DEAL, PARDNER -- YOU PICK OUT THE TARGETS, AN' WE'LL KNOCK 'EM OVER!

AN INVISIBLE GANG OF GHOSTLY OUTLAWS PREYING ON THE LIVING --- THE SLAUGHTER WOULD BE TERRIFIC! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO STOP THEM -- WAIT -- I THINK I'VE GOT IT!



SOON AFTERWARDS, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN...

THIS MUST BE WHERE ALL THE GOOD PEOPLE OF LEAD CITY WERE BURIED! SO IF I CAN RAISE THEIR SPIRITS, MAYBE I CAN GET UP A LARGE ENOUGH POSSE OF VIGILANTES TO OVERPOWER THE OUTLAWS!

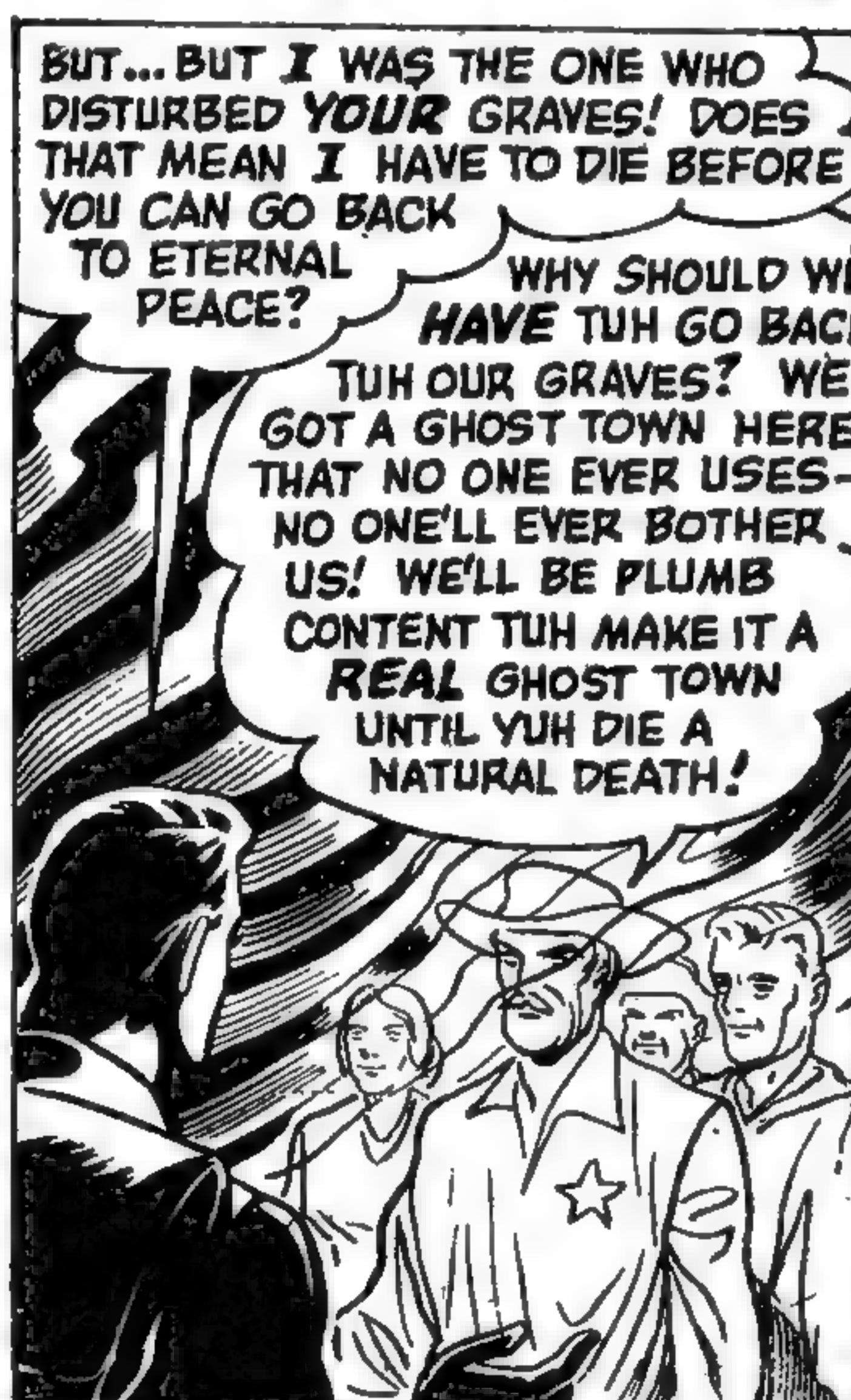


AND SO, AS BEFORE --



IT WORKED --- HERE THEY COME! NOW TO STOP THEM AND TELL THEM ABOUT THE OUTLAWS! --- HOLD ON, THERE --- LISTEN TO ME ---!







THE PRISONER'S FAMILY MAY CLAIM THE BODY FOR BURIAL, SERGEANT! IF THE NATIVES SHOW ANY SIGN OF OPEN HOSTILITY, YOU HAVE THE USUAL ORDERS FOR IMMEDIATE SURPRISE! IS THAT CLEAR?



THEN, AS THE GRIM-FACED COMMANDANT CROSSED THE COURTYARD...



MY JOB HERE AS AN ENGINEER DOESN'T GIVE ME THE RIGHT TO SOUND OFF, BUT YOUR BROTHER'S METHOD OF JUSTICE IS THE GREATEST SHAM I'VE SEEN YET! THAT NATIVE NEVER HAD A CHANCE! HE WAS A DEAD MAN BEFORE THE TRIAL BEGAN!



QUITE TRUE, MARIE! IT IS MY WAY, AND ONE WHICH AN AMERICAN WOULD HARDLY UNDERSTAND! IT IS THEIR NATIONAL CHARACTERISTIC TO FAVOR THE UNDERDOG! TO ME, IT IS RIDICULOUS, INEFFICIENT!



PERHAPS THE NATIVE YOU SAW KILLED WAS INNOCENT! WHAT OF IT? THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT AN EXAMPLE HAS BEEN SET! IT MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE WHO DIES, SO LONG AS THE LESSON IS TAUGHT!



BUT THIS IS NO TIME FOR A LONG FACE, MARIE! REMEMBER, TONIGHT IS THE RECEPTION BALL AT THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE! IT WOULDN'T SPEAK WELL OF ME IF HIS EXCELLENCY SAW YOU IN A DEPRESSED STATE!



IT ISN'T ME YOU NEED FEAR, PAUL... BUT YOUR OWN CONSCIENCE! HEAVEN HELP YOU WHEN THE TIME FOR RECKONING COMES!

LATE THAT SAME EVENING, AS DUSK GATHERS, A GROUP OF NATIVES BEAR THE SLAIN PRISONER TO THE EDGE OF A BUBBLING, HISSING PIT...

HEAR US, GREAT BELHOA, IN OUR HOUR OF NEED... AVENGE WITH WRATH THIS BLOODY DEED.



AS THE INCANTATION COMES TO AN END, THE SOLEMN-FACED NATIVES HURL THE BODY INTO THE HISSING, VAPOROUS DEPTHS!



THE GREAT BELHOA HAS HEARD! HE SENDS FORTH HIS MESSENGERS!



LATER THAT EVENING... THE GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION...

THAT GIRL, YOUR EXCELLENCY! THE ONE PAUL KEEPS DANCING WITH! WHO IS SHE?

FRANKLY, MY DEAR, I AM IN THE DARK AS MUCH AS YOU! I CAN'T IMAGINE WHOSE GUEST SHE IS, BUT I REALLY SHOULDN'T OBJECT! SHE'S QUITE A BEAUTY AT THAT!

FOR THE HUNDREDTH TIME, WON'T YOU TELL ME WHO YOU ARE? I COME TO THE GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION EXPECTING A DULL TIME, AND THEN I FIND **YOU**... A VISION OF LOVELINESS, BUT A MYSTERY!



BUT I MUST KNOW NOW... I'M NOT GOING TO RISK YOUR SLIPPING OFF! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I'M SERIOUS?

YES, I SEE THAT... YOU ARE **QUITE** SERIOUS!



THEN WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

LOOK CLOSE, COMMANDANT! GAZE DEEP INTO MY EYES AND YOU WILL HAVE THE ANSWERS YOU SO GREATLY DESIRE!

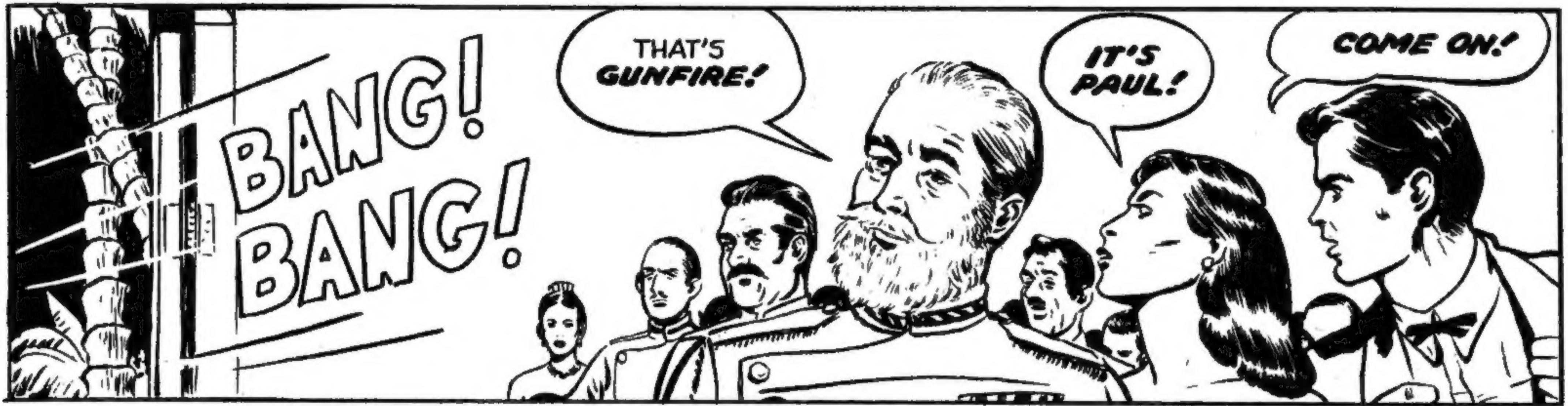


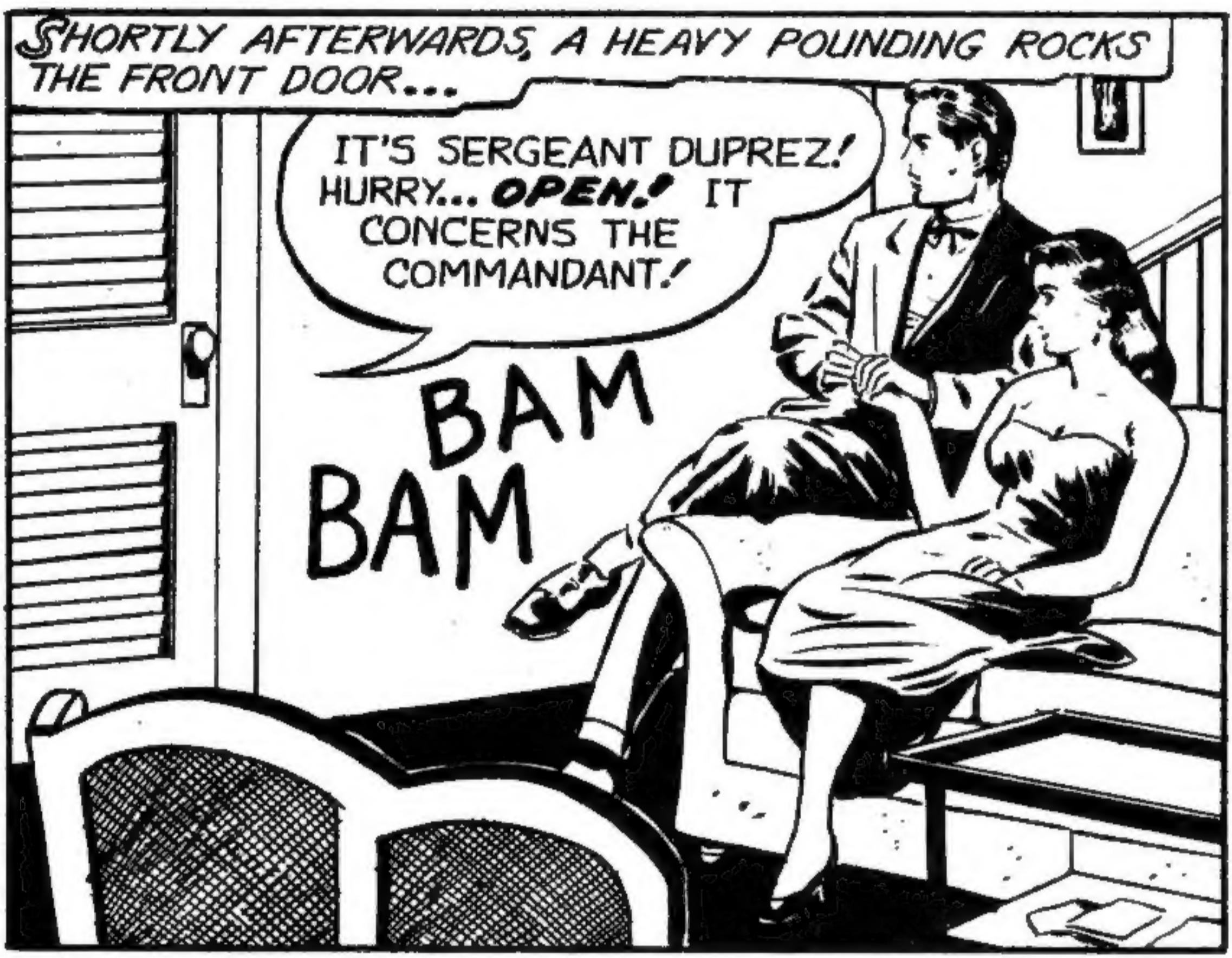
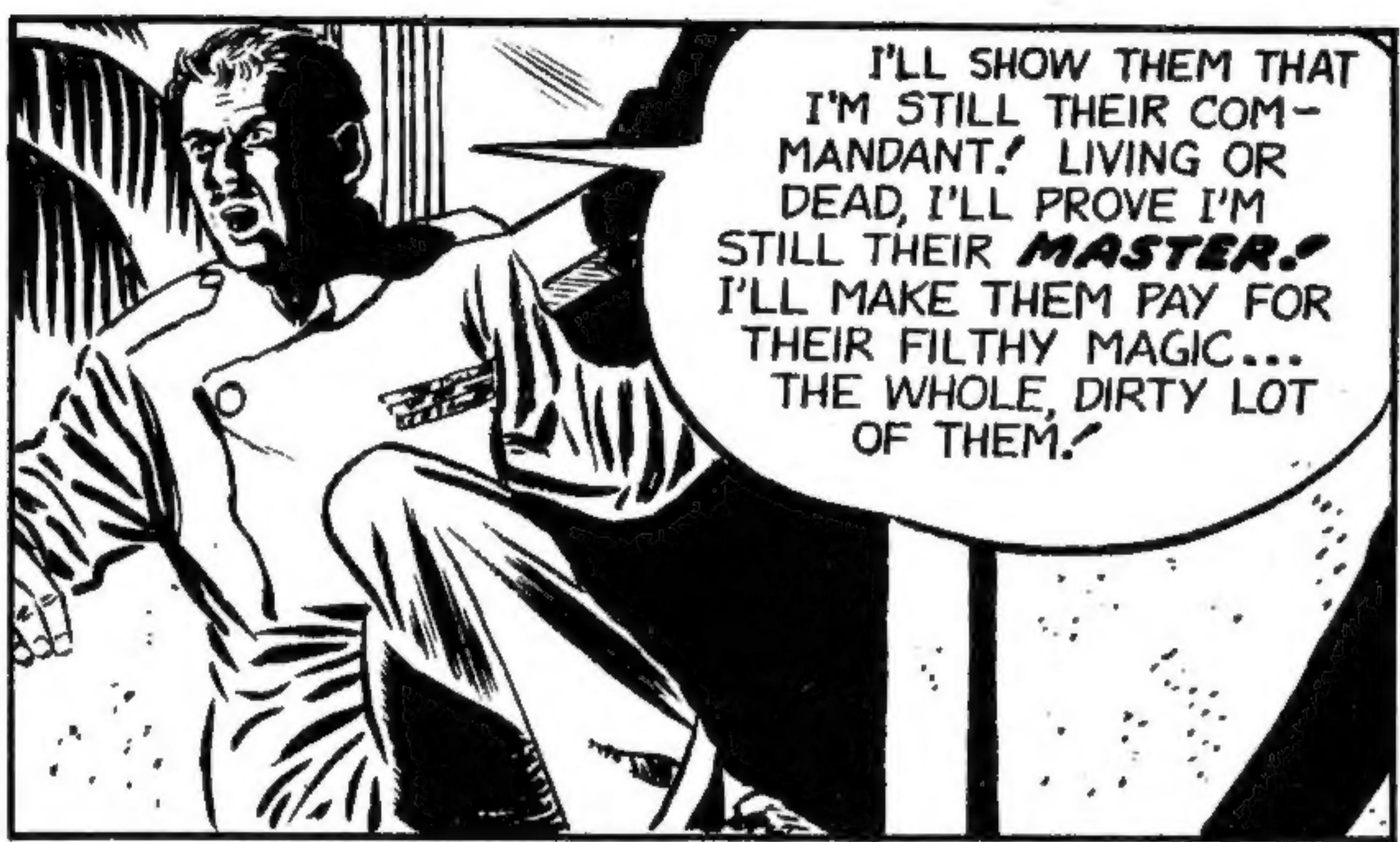
AND AS THE MOON SLIPS FROM BEHIND THE SCREENING CLOUDS...

OH-HH!

HA HA HA!







...AND THEN HE INSISTED THAT
I OPEN THE STOREROOM! HE
REMOVED A LARGE QUANTITY
OF DYNAMITE... KEPT SPEAK-
ING ABOUT THE **BUBBLING**
PIT! HE WAS WILD, I TELL
YOU... NEVER HAVE I SEEN
HIM LIKE THIS BEFORE!



MEANWHILE, THE DEMENTED
MAN RACES TOWARDS HIS
OBJECTIVE...

OPPOSE **ME**, WILL THEY?
I'LL SETTLE THEIR PIT,
ONCE AND FOR
ALL!



AND WHEN
FRED AND
MARIE REACH
THE FOOT OF
THE INCLINE
...



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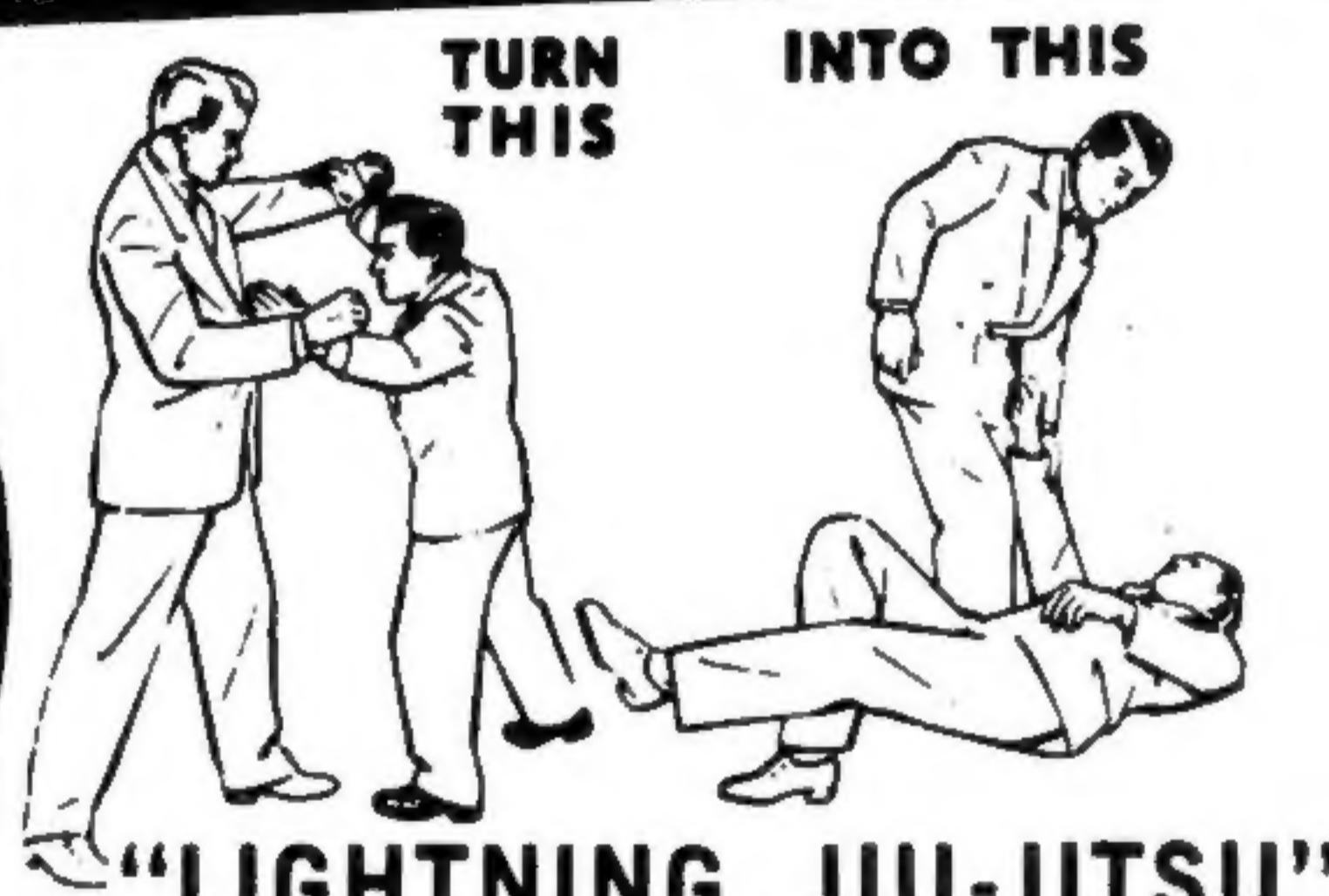
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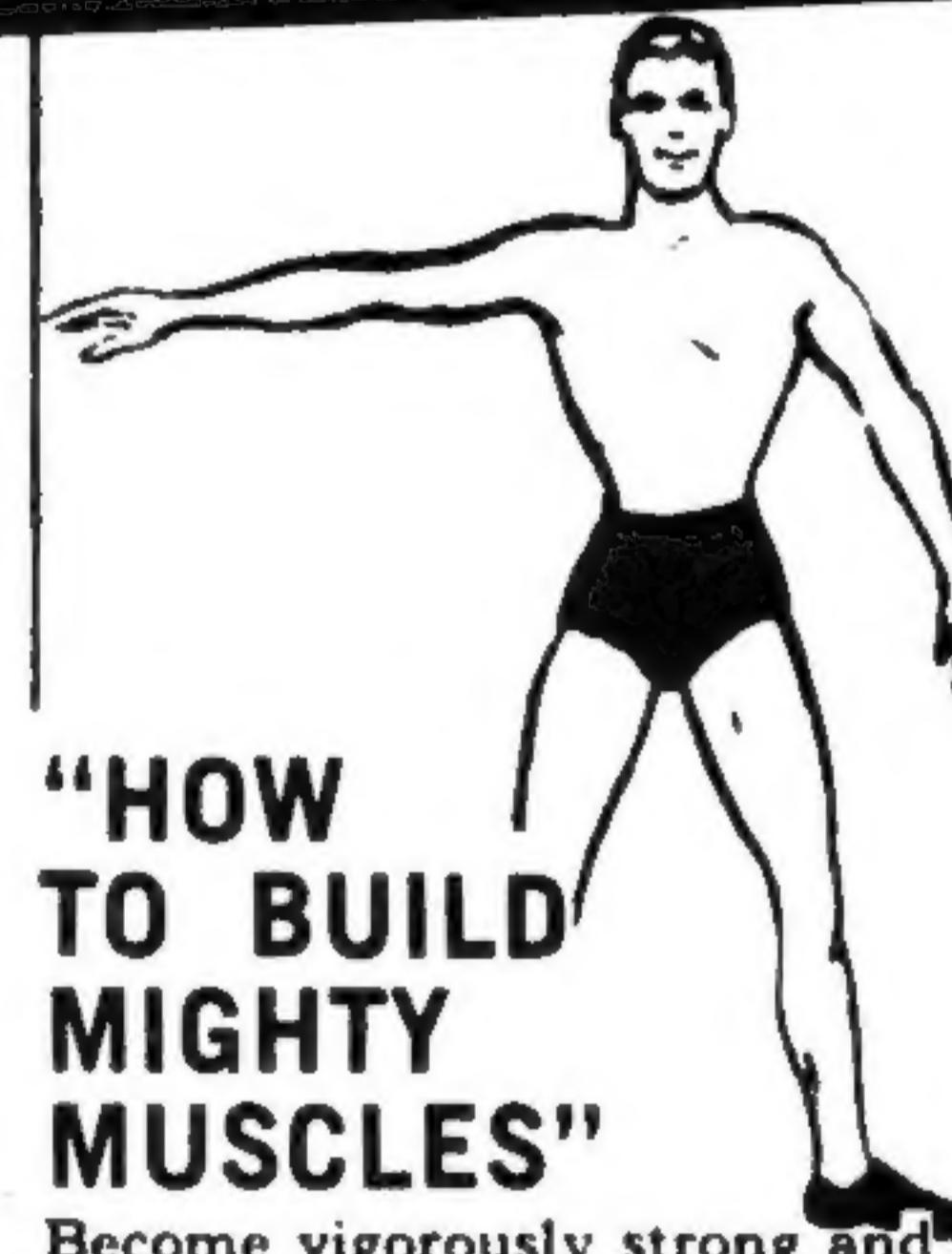
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